

Benn-Callaghan clash over joining Euro money system

Wedge Benn, Secretary of Energy, had an angry row over whether the Government should join the European Monetary System proposed by the man and French governments.

He was speaking during a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Labour Party National Executive at 10 Downing Street. Mr James Callaghan told the meeting that he would not abandon the 5 per cent pay policy.

Cabinet ministers given warning

Mr Clark, a Labour MP, said that the Government was in a "clash" with the Labour Party over the proposed Monetary System. He said that the Government was "in a clash" with the Labour Party over the proposed Monetary System.

There had never been a majority in the Parliamentary Labour Party for elections to the European Commission or entry into the EMS, Mr Benn said. He hoped that the next Labour election manifesto would be written around composite motion 42, which was carried at the Labour Party conference this year by 4,846,000 votes to 1,639,000.

Among other things, that motion called for an amendment of the European Communities Act 1972, to give the House of Commons power to veto EEC proposals; to reform the common agricultural policy; to rewrite the Treaty of Rome to transfer the powers of the Commission and to reject any moves towards economic and monetary union and many other encroachments on the rights of self-government of member states.

Mr Benn was stung into making a statement at a joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Labour Party National Executive at 10 Downing Street, called to discuss the Government's policy towards the Monetary System.

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Hospital conditions deteriorate as talks fail

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent
Management and staff sides in the hospital engineers' dispute were again at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) yesterday. Meanwhile, both Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, and hospital authorities gave a warning of a severe effect on the men's industrial action on patients and the health service.

That second attempt by Acas in four days to settle the dispute came after the service had invited both sides to more talks and Mr Ennals had seen Mrs Rachel Kelly, chairman of the management side. But after three hours of talks with Acas officials no progress had been made.

Mr Ennals said after his meeting with Mrs Kelly, that he had telephoned Mr John Morrison, chairman of Acas, who had offered to make a second attempt to get the two sides together. Mr Morrison said he had made clear that if Acas was to succeed, both sides must show some willingness to make concessions.

Mr Ennals repeated his appeal to the unions to suspend their industrial action. Asked how long he was prepared to see the dispute continue, he replied: "This is a question which must be put to the parties."

"It is not good enough," he has been said by some, that the management side and the Government should take the easy course and give way. It would upset the system that has kept the dispute from becoming a general strike.

As to why no move had been made for three days to restart talks, when patients were suffering and matters were deteriorating daily, Mr Ennals said he was doing everything he could. Conceding the men's demands would mean that the Government's pay policy would "go out of the window".

Patients were not only anxious for their own welfare; they also wanted to see inflation controlled. More than 9,000 hospital beds are now closed, at least 30,000 patients have been added to the waiting list for operations, and more than 150 hospital services are admitting emergency cases only.

Mr Ennals said he had received a telegram from Sir John Deane, chairman of the South East Thames Regional Health Authority, concerning the effect of the strike on patients. He added that it was one example of many such reports.

The telegram said it did not appear to be appreciated generally that death or serious harm might result from a delay in admission to hospital. It listed the following examples: a rheumatoid arthritis in a patient's leg; a child with a fractured arm; a child with a fractured arm; a child with a fractured arm.

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' union, warmly welcomed the Government's proposals. Reform was long overdue, it said. The National Association of Head Teachers also welcomed the announcement. Most secondary schools were weary of a dual system that was wasteful of time, manpower and money, it said.

The Confederation of British Industry said it did not want the new system "as it would be a disaster". It was concerned that it would be difficult for an examination to cover the ability range previously covered by CSE and O level examinations.

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Dr Kaunda says Rhodesia attack would be suicide for Zambia

From Lawrence Pintak
Lusaka, Oct. 23

As Zambians prepared for tomorrow's celebrations of the 10th anniversary of their independence from Britain, President Kaunda today told his people that the country's forces were completely outgunned by the superior Rhodesian forces. He said that the Rhodesians had land and naval bases in Bulawayo and Salisbury. Dr Kaunda told assembled journalists and diplomats: "But I know that if I send our boys to fight, I would be committing suicide for Zambia."

Eighteen foreign nationals suspected of collaborating with the Rhodesians are being held for questioning. Dr Kaunda refused to reveal their nationalities and warned diplomats not to try to "apply pressure for their release."

They had concluded that after Zambia opened the border to the Rhodesians were preparing to drive a wedge between the Rhodesians and the Zambians by making them believe the guerrillas were destroying the vital rail lines.

Dr Kaunda insisted that he knew ahead of time of last week's Rhodesian raid in which Salisbury claimed 1,500 guerrillas died. Whatever Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, was thinking, he was known in Zambia, he said.

The Rhodesians were able to strike unopposed on the outskirts of the Zambian capital, he said, because the Zambians were weak on the basis that the attacks would be against military targets. "Also, the dastardly Rhodesians attacked innocent people."

Rhodesians for fighters maintained full control of Zambian air space for at least half an hour last Thursday morning, forcing the Air Force to remain on the ground at their Mushumba base and coordinating with the Lusaka airport control tower to ensure that private and commercial aircraft were not harmed.

The Zambian leader said he was not embarrassed by the impotence of his Air Force, blaming it on the fact that "it takes just six minutes for a jet to reach the capital from the border."

Informed sources, however, said one of the main reasons Zambia was unable to defend itself was that the ancient British-built "Rapier" missile system surrounding the capital was out of commission due to a lack of maintenance and spare parts.

Dr Kaunda viciously attacked the United States and Britain for their "lukewarm condemnation" of the Rhodesian incursion. "All they said really amounts to saying to Smith: 'We don't mind what you do.'"

The Zambian President is especially upset with the United States. Suspecting Britain was secretly favouring continued white rule in Rhodesia, Dr Kaunda has seen President Carter as his one hope for Western support.

While he does not accuse the American President of complicity in the incursions, he does believe that the attacks would be against military targets. "Also, the dastardly Rhodesians attacked innocent people."

Continued on page 8, col 6



President Kaunda: Attacked Britain and America

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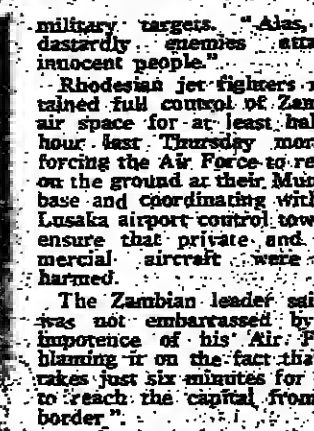
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Postman has disarming plan for angry dogs

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct. 23

The French Post Office is planning to use a new breed of dog to keep out the most prevalent industrial diseases suffered by postmen—dogs. A report assembled statistics from last year shows that 3,000 postmen were attacked, presumably by as many dogs, and that nearly twice that many days of work were lost as a result.

This represents a 41 per cent growth rate in the number of attacks over the past five years, and the authorities have therefore decided it is time they got their teeth into the problem. Striving to prevent the problem from becoming a vicious circle, they have decided to put the dogs of Britain on trial.

British dogs are not particularly ferocious, although those who live in the faraway reaches of Biscaya are apparently the worst in that area. Between them the 125 postmen dogged by their canine enemies last year caused 201 lost working days.

It seems that postmen, delivering letters to houses, are most likely to find a dog barking its teeth in attack. Their calves, legs, chest or buttocks (12 per cent, depending on the size of the dog).

Therefore, over the next fortnight the British dog masters will be bombarded with publicity telling them to keep their dogs under control. The time when the postman is likely to call. Those who fail to do this will receive one warning letter and after that if their dog is still free to bite, they will be required to collect their dog and keep it on a leash.

The scheme's effect will be studied and the intention is to bring it into operation all over France in the new year.

Meanwhile, postmen are being given a lecture advising them to deal with dogs before they are bitten. They are warned to beware of animals, and to steer clear of dogs in a group. They are told always to keep a "bold face" in any would-be attacker and to speak softly to it.

One British postman has been offering more practical advice born of 14 years experience: dodging, snapping, teeth, Cocker Spaniels, and poodles are the most dangerous he has encountered, but, nowadays, he claims to have few worries.

He has bought a bitch and finds that, as soon as the dogs catch her, she becomes friendly. He apparently has no other tricks on his mind.

Battersea power station blaze

Firesmen fought a big blaze at Battersea power station, south London, last night. The fire began in the turbine room.

The Times

Mr Williams proposes single 16-plus exam

By Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government's decision, announced yesterday, to replace the GCE O level examination by a single examination was described as an act of folly by Mr Norman Shanks, Secretary of State for Education. He was nevertheless in favour of examination reform. He proposed to spell out his proposals for reform at a meeting in Coventry on Thursday. There should be a common system of grading examinations at 16-plus, but separate examinations, Mrs Williams said the Government was convinced that, far from posing a threat to educational standards, the system would underpin the decision on the 16-plus examinations did not prejudice the Government's decision on the N and F examinations at 18.

posals that rested not on educational values but on egalitarian doctrine. Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was making the same mistake on examinations as she had made on comprehensive schools, he added.

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plus which, it is suggested, should replace A levels.

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teachers' union, warmly welcomed the Government's proposals. Reform was long overdue, it said. The National Association of Head Teachers also welcomed the announcement. Most secondary schools were weary of a dual system that was wasteful of time, manpower and money, it said.

The Confederation of British Industry said it did not want the new system "as it would be a disaster". It was concerned that it would be difficult for an examination to cover the ability range previously covered by CSE and O level examinations.

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over oil sanctions

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Pope talks to Poles

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Iran to release 1,126
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DPP examines leaflet

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Ignorance is no longer an excuse.



**FINANCIAL
DIRECTOR**

Ignorance isn't bliss.

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CHEVETTE 1600L	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £72.50	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £83.00	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £80.50	
CORTINA 1.6 GL (GL AUTO)	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £95.00 (1-5)	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £125.00 (2000)	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £105.00 (1-5)	
CORTINA ESTATE 1600L	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £95.00	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £112.00	WEEKLY UNLIMITED £105.00	
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HOME NEWS

Housing authorities urged to spend their full allocations

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government warned local authorities yesterday that they were in danger of under-spending their housing budgets this year.

Mr Reginald Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, told a meeting of the joint Housing Consultative Council that figures for the first quarter of the year from last April showed that councils had taken up 18 per cent of the total allocation of about £2,200m.

He urged the local government representatives present to make their known to housing authorities in order to ensure that the allocation was fully used. The response from local government was that less was likely to be spent in the first quarter, and that those early figures did not mean that councils would be spending less on housing in the year than they should.

Nevertheless the Government is worried about the possible shortfall in new building as councils concentrate on rehabilitation programmes.

Mr Freeson also said the Government intended to introduce in April, 1980, the new housing subsidy system, fore-shadowed in last year's Green Paper. That would be a year later than at first expected. Local authority associations had said it would be difficult administratively to bring in the scheme next year; they therefore welcomed the announcement.

The Association of District Councils submitted proposals which it hoped might be included in the forthcoming housing Bill, including measures to deal with increasing council house rent arrears.

The Government is considering the inclusion of some of the association's proposals, but Mr Freeson suggested that measures relating to rent arrears would be best brought up when the Rent Act was reviewed.

Inquiry into pension fund urged by miners

From Ronald Kershaw
Barnsley

The Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers has called for a full investigation into the investments and management of the Mineworkers' Pension Fund.

It is also to seek information on the involvement, if any, of Mr Joseph Gormley, NUM national president, with the Vancouver Wharves Company and the Williams Hudson Company and related companies and their connection with the fund.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, said after the area council meeting yesterday that letters had been received from two branches referring to an article in *The Sunday Times* in September concerning investments of the miners' pension scheme and a development in north-east England.

Mr Scargill said the council had also passed a resolution stating that an NUM official should hold a directorship in any private company, because it was contrary to union principles.

The *Sunday Times* article referred to the construction of a £10m shopping centre at North Shields by a company whose chairman was also a director of Arrow Construction Equipment, a subsidiary of the Williams Hudson oil and property group.

Mr Scargill said yesterday: "I want to make it clear there was no recommendation on this matter from the platform nor was it raised or discussed by any area official. No area official spoke on the matter but the decision was unanimous."

Mr Gormley was not available for comment yesterday.

Footballers are reassured on foreign players' tax Treasury smoothes ruffled feathers

By Michael Horsnell

The Treasury has smoothed the ruffled feathers of highly taxed British footballers, who suspect the taxman of making lighter demands on the pay packets of their teammates from abroad than their own.

A statement from Mr Robert Sheldon, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, assured them yesterday that players like Ardiles and Villa, Tottenham Hotspur's new imports from Argentina, are paying just as much tax as they are.

The statement, which arose from concern that foreign players may have a tax advantage, came in a letter to Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Sowerby. Mr Madden, who has a passing interest in the fortunes of the Fourth Division teams, Halifax and Rochdale, took up the matter in his capacity as chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party employment group.

He has passed on the information to the Professional Footballers' Association, whose secretary Mr Clifford Lloyd, has discussed importing players with the Department of Employment.

Mr Sheldon told Mr Madden that anyone who spends more than six months of any tax year in Britain is regarded as a resident liable to tax. The same applies to anyone who comes to Britain for three months every year for more than four years.

Mr Sheldon said: "Most professional footballers, I would expect, would be resident here under one or other of these rules."

Mr Madden said: "While professional footballers are welcome here, it is important that their tax status is not better than that of their British teammates. The PFA will doubtless be watching out to protect the interests of British players. I felt they would have to be rigorous because foreign players might try to negotiate contracts for five months a year."

There is still one difficulty for British players who demand equality before the taxman. It involves foreign players, whom British clubs want to sign part-time. Chelsea recently offered Johan Cruyff, the Dutch footballer, the opportunity to play for them on a match-to-match basis. He declined.

Cruyff, who last played for Barcelona, recently agreed with the Spanish inland revenue to pay 15 million pesetas (£106,000) in back taxes for 1977 plus 18 million pesetas in "late payment" fines.

By a Staff Reporter

Support for royalty shows little sign of abating in Britain, according to an opinion poll published today. Of those questioned, 86 per cent think the Monarchy provides the best head of state, and 97 per cent think the Queen does a good job.

The results of the poll, commissioned from the Opinion Research Centre, are published in *Woman*. Even those aged 16 to 24 show 77 per cent support for the Monarchy as head of state. Only 16 per cent of that group would prefer a presidency.

Only 22 per cent say they would object if the Prince of Wales married a divorcee. Even fewer would object if he married a Roman Catholic (14 per cent), a foreign princess (6 per cent) or a commoner (5 per cent). More than half would be happy to see him remain a bachelor on the throne, but less than a third think the Queen should now abdicate in his favour.

The most popular member of the Royal Family is the Queen, with 73 points out of 100, followed by the Prince of Wales (61), the Duke of Edinburgh (56) and the Queen Mother (52).

Princess Anne and Princess Margaret both fare badly in popularity. 45 per cent describing Princess Anne as arrogant. About a tenth think the two princesses are either "hard-working" or "friendly and interested".

Figures for the Queen are 83 and 46 per cent.

Radiation 'risk' for students

Thousands of university students may be at risk from ultraviolet radiation because safety measures are ignored in laboratories, a report published today says.

Overexposure to ultra violet radiation can cause skin rashes and damage eyesight, and may be linked with skin cancer.

The report, by the National Radiological Protection Society, on a survey at three unidentified universities, concludes: "The study shows a general lack of awareness of the hazard from ultra violet radiation among university staff and also

of health protection measures. In general the standard of engineering controls was inadequate, administrative controls were poor and although personal protection was available in some cases, there was no warning sign instructing staff to wear it."

The society says it believes the findings are typical of most university laboratories. A spokesman said: "People do not seem to realize the risk they are running. Reported cases of genuine injuries are rare but we think safety measures should be tightened up before something does happen."

Equality body accused of racialism

By Annabel Ferriman

The Commission for Racial Equality was accused of racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal hearing in London yesterday.

Mr Joseph Hunt, aged 60, community relations officer for Tower Hamlets, east London, alleged that he was not given the job of director, community affairs and liaison, in July, 1977, on the ground of race.

Mr Hunt is from Trinidad, and the £10,000-a-year job went to Mr Charles Boxer, community relations officer for Wandsworth, who is white.

Mr Hunt claimed that he was better qualified because he had been in community relations work ever since he arrived in Britain in 1958, whereas Mr

Boxer had been doing such work for only nine years and a half.

Organizations in which Mr Hunt said he had played an important role included the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD).

Mr Hunt claims that his interview lasted only 20 minutes. He had been told it would take 45 minutes. He had been asked irrelevant questions and interrupted when answering.

Mr Clifton Robinson, full-time deputy chairman of the commission, a member of the selection panel, agreed that Mr Hunt had excellent qualifications, as had all the nine people short-listed and interviewed, but he did not perform as well at the interview as did Mr Boxer.

All those interviewed had degrees and experience in community work. Mr Boxer, now aged 52, had been a clergyman until 1954, when he decided to read for a law degree at Edinburgh University.

All short-listed candidates had a 30-minute interview. The list had been drawn up by a panel of two black commissioners and one white, and the interviewing panel consisted of three white commissioners, two West Indians and one Asian.

The panel had unanimously chosen Mr Boxer, who had a clear grasp of priorities and finance and a realistic appraisal of race relations. He brought up innovation ideas and did not stick to the well-trodden paths. The case continues today.

Former MP's children sent for trial

A son and daughter of Mr John Cordle, the former Conservative MP, were sent for trial to Inner London Crown Court by Horseferry Road magistrates yesterday.

Rupert Cordle, aged 19, of Victoria Grove, Kensington, and Marina Cordle, aged 18, of Sloane Court West, Chelsea, are accused of attempting to enter a flat with intent to steal. Mr Rupert Cordle is also accused of entering and stealing. They were allowed bail.

Health checks for MPs urged

An arrangement for MPs to get health checks is recommended in a report from the House of Commons Services Committee, published yesterday.

The scheme should operate from the opening of the next session. No treatment will be given but the results of tests would be passed the MPs' doctors.

Legal arguments in secrets trial

Legal arguments in the absence of the jury took up more than half of the day of the Official Secrets Act trial at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The jury left the court after the final appearance in the witness box of Colonel Hugh Johnstone, who explained that he had been identified only as "Colonel B" at the committal proceedings before trial to protect the identity of Signals Intelligence units involved.



Lord George Brown with his wife after he received the freedom of the City of London at Guildhall yesterday.

Disabled win certificates for sailing

From Our Own Correspondent
Manchester

Mr Vaughan Davies, aged 28, a paraplegic who broke his spine in a road accident six years ago, has been awarded the Royal Yachting Association's Elementary Proficiency Certificate after learning to sail racing dinghies.

Although many paraplegics and other disabled people sail regularly and one, Mr Kenneth Roberts, of Loughborough, is a qualified RYA coach, Mr Davies' achievement is outstanding because he had never been in a boat before he became paralysed from the chest down.

A certificate was also awarded during a weekend ceremony at Rushmore Sailing Club, Cheshire, to Miss Margaret Rankine, of Runclesley, Liverpool.

After only three instruction sessions she won a race on *Wendover* against a group of Cheshire first service officers, which was part of her and Mr Davies' assessment test.

Both were congratulated by Mr Alfred Morris, Minister for the Disabled, who said sailing enabled handicapped people to mix on equal terms with the able-bodied.

Mr Davies, of Rushmore, Manchester, intends to advance through as many stages of the association's training scheme as he can manage.

The association is trying to encourage more sailing clubs to welcome disabled persons as members, particularly paraplegics, who are usually strong swimmers because of their early remedial treatment.

In brief

Woman burnt to death on field

Miss Julia Freehand, aged 23, of Great Hollands, Berkshire, died on a playing field at Bracknell yesterday, after pouring paraffin over herself and setting it alight.

Children playing near by ran for help but Miss Freehand was dead when the emergency services arrived.

Car hits police station

Mrs Christine Reeves, a teacher, saw her car run 100 yards downhill and crash into the police station at Dursley, Gloucestershire, yesterday, after she got out to push it. Only the car was damaged.

Callaghan honour

Mr James Callaghan is to be made a Freeman of Sheffield. Three local men will also be given the honour, early next year, the first in eight years.

Phones out of action

With up to nine tenths of its emergency telephones always out of action, the Automobile Association in the East Midlands is putting up signs saying: "Box out of order due to vandalism."

Castle flag prank

Officials at Nottingham Castle yesterday found that the Union Jack had been taken down from the flagpole, 109 feet high, and a laundry cart hoisted instead. Scaffolders will have to be brought in to remove it and replace the flag.

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HOME NEWS

Government proposes single 16-plus exam to replace the CSE and GCE O levels

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government has decided that the CSE and GCE O level examinations should be replaced by a single system of examining pupils aged 16. The present dual system does not match any natural division in the abilities or aspirations of pupils and is confusing for employers, the Government says in a White Paper published yesterday.

No date has been fixed for introducing the system. Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that she hoped the syllabuses could be introduced in 1983, with the first pupils taking the examinations in 1985, as suggested by the Waddell committee in its report on a common examining system at 16 plus; but much depends on the speed with which the preparations can be completed.

Mrs Williams said that parents were often concerned about a pupil being entered for a CSE examination when they would have preferred the pupil to take a GCE O level in the subject. Schools might have to make undesirable early decisions about which examination the child should take.

It was rare for employers to treat a CSE qualification, even a grade 1, as representing anything more than the child was not capable of getting an O level, she said. The link between the grading structures of the two examination systems, with a grade 1 CSE being equivalent to an O level at grade C or above, was not properly understood.

Under a dual examining system it was difficult for schools to use their teaching resources to the best advantage, and these difficulties were likely to become more acute as the number of pupils continued to fall. Fewer schools would be able to offer CSE and GCE in all subjects.

The Waddell committee, which reported last July, decided that a single examining system was feasible educationally and administratively. The Government says that it accepts, in general, the analysis and recommendations of the committee.

There should be one examining system, on a single subject basis as at present, for the range of candidates for whom the GCE O level and CSE examinations are designed (ie, the most able three fifths of pupils, subject by subject) on a seven-point scale corresponding to O level and CSE grades, the Government says.



Mrs Shirley Williams speaking on the proposed examination system yesterday.

It accepts the Waddell committee's view that it would be necessary in some subjects to provide alternative examinations at different levels of difficulty, to provide satisfactory provision for candidates from the extended wide-ability range.

Less advanced candidates might not be required to take some papers or answer certain questions, but would then be unable to gain a top grade for that subject.

An essential feature of the system would be the establishment of a national coordinating body to promote the effective development of new syllabuses and examinations, to assist in establishing and maintaining public confidence in the examinations, and to set nationally agreed criteria.

The White Paper makes clear that the proposed national coordinating body would not be the Schools Council but would be a new body with strong representation from universities, polytechnics, further education colleges, employers, trade unions and employers, as well as from teachers and local education authorities.

Mrs Williams said that the new body might well be chaired by the Schools Council's chairman and serviced by its staff.

It is proposed that similar interests should be represented on the senior body responsible for overseeing the proposed new groups of examination boards. The Waddell committee recommended that the existing eight GCE boards and 16 CSE boards be brought together to

form about five regionally based groups.

The Government says that each group should be based on at least one GCE board and one CSE board, and should be identified with territory broadly covering the area or areas of the CSE board or boards involved, but with boundaries coinciding with local education authority boundaries.

Ministers expect to be able to consider outline proposals for the groups by July. Discussions with the examination boards will begin soon.

Secondary School examinations: a single system at 16 plus. (Because of an industrial dispute at the Secretary Office copies of the White Paper are not obtainable from bookshops. It will be given a command number and price when the dispute is over.)

Leading article, page 19

Opera house loses £272,000 in year

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, lost £272,000 in the last financial year, and despite cuts, there is a serious danger of further losses this year.

Sir Claus Moser, chairman of Covent Garden, said in the annual report, published yesterday: "I see no way of covering last year's deficit and of balancing the books for this year".

The deficit on the last season was in fact £376,000, but the overall loss was reduced by the recovery of a bad debt arising from an American tour.

Last year Covent Garden received £400,000 less than it had sought from the Arts Council, a figure similar to the eventual deficit. This year the gap between what it asked for and what it received from the Arts Council is £800,000.

"The amounts required could only be saved by severe cuts and these would destroy much that has been achieved", Sir Claus said. The main difficulty was that Arts Council grants were not keeping pace with rising costs. Seat prices were regularly increased but there was resistance to higher prices.

Sir Claus said that if Covent Garden was to retain the same standard as other international opera houses its subsidy would have to approach the levels of subsidy those houses received. A grant about 35 per cent higher than at present was needed, he said. He had not given up hope of a significant change in the Government's attitude.

Eire Bill may slightly ease contraception law

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

New controversy about the availability of contraceptives for citizens of the Irish Republic is imminent because of legislation being drawn up by Mr Charles Haughey, the Minister for Health, the man seen by many Dubliners as Mr Jock Lynch's natural successor as leader of Fianna Fail.

Although strict secrecy surrounds the content of the Bill, Irish political commentators predict that it will seek only limited reform of the contraceptive laws and seek to restrict the sale of contraceptive devices to married couples.

The last attempt to liberalize the contraceptive laws, in 1974, was narrowly defeated after the former Prime Minister, Mr Liam Cosgrave, voted against legislation drawn up by his own coalition.

Mr Lynch, the Prime Minister, has let it be known that he favours a ban on the sale of contraceptives to single people. A similar point has been made by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, which has expressed fears that lack of such a ban would lead to a breakdown in Irish moral standards.

The Republic's legislation lags well behind that of all its EEC partners and is a regular source of embarrassment to Government officials trying to present the image of a modern, progressive country. With the ban on divorce it is also a significant stumbling block to attempts to convince northern Protestants of the long-term desirability of forming a united Ireland.

As a result of a court decision, contraceptives may be legally imported for private use, but they cannot be placed on public sale. In practice they are widely available because of work by family planning clinics. Those clinics have avoided the prohibition by providing their clients with free contraceptives in exchange for voluntary donations to their funds (which always equal the retail prices of the devices sold). But a shortage has arisen over the past few weeks after Irish customs men seized large consignments of condoms being brought in by staff.

The present Cabinet, as was the case with the previous one, is divided over the issue and the Government is under pressure from many groups to legalize sales of contraceptives to single people. Mr Haughey's handling of the matter when it comes before the Dail could play an important part in deciding his political future.

Legal body 'biased against US graduate'

By Annabel Ferriman

The Council of Legal Education discriminated against an American graduate by requiring her to take a two-year (instead of a one-year) course in training for the Bar, an industrial tribunal ruled in a reserved judgment published yesterday.

It found that Mrs Joan Bohon-Mitchell, aged 29, an English literature graduate from Columbia University, New York, was not able to comply with the council's requirement that all non-law graduates wanted to take the academic stage of training in one year instead of two had to have a United Kingdom or an Irish degree.

It ruled that the requirement indirectly discriminated against non-United Kingdom citizens because it was harder for them to comply with it, and it was therefore unlawful under the Race Relations Act, 1976.

The council had contended during the hearing in September that non-law graduates without a United Kingdom or Irish degree ought to take the two-year course because they needed to acquaint themselves with the English way of life. If someone had read for a degree in Britain or the Republic of Ireland it would be reasonable to assume that they had such knowledge, the council had said.

The tribunal pointed out that Mrs Bohon-Mitchell had taken a degree in English literature, had lived in Britain for several years, was married to a British doctor, had passed two subjects of the external London LLB and had worked in a solicitor's office.

It said that the crucial point of the respondents' case was that they did not have the necessary information about candidates, so they used the best practical criteria available.

The tribunal did not accept the council's plea that it did not have the resources to make individual assessments, because it had done so for 22 mature student applicants.

It therefore recommended that the respondents amend the regulations "to provide that candidates with degrees in subjects other than law who are required to pass the academic stage of their training by taking a diploma course in two years he told the reason for that requirement, and be given an opportunity to make individual representations that they be allowed to pass it by taking a diploma course in one year".

The tribunal did not award any compensation to Mrs Bohon-Mitchell.

Libel writ for Mrs Renee Short

Mrs Renee Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East, is being sued for slander and libel over a speech she made at the Labour Party conference on October 4.

The National Association for Freedom has obtained a High Court writ compelling of words used by Mrs Short and their repetition on BBC television.

National Front members on affray charge

Four members of the National Front appeared at Old Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday accused of making an affray in Great Eastern Street, Shoreditch, near the new headquarters of their organization.

James O'Keefe, aged 30, unemployed, of Muswell Hill, was refused bail and remanded in custody for eight days. Lawrence Concannon, aged 21, a messenger, of Wood Green, was granted conditional bail with a surety of £1,000.

Tony Duck, aged 19, unemployed, of Wood Green, and Lawrence O'Brien, aged 20, a London Transport guard, of Finsbury Park, were granted unconditional bail.

The four are jointly charged with unlawfully fighting and making an affray in Great Eastern Street on the night of October 19.

Mr O'Keefe is further charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Mr Keith Frost on the same occasion.

'Yes for Scotland' group seeks up-to-date register

From Our Correspondent
Edinburgh

The "Yes for Scotland" Campaign Committee met Mr John Smith, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, and Mr Harry Ewing, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs at the Scottish Office, in Edinburgh yesterday and put a four-point plan to them to ensure that the ruling that 40 per cent of the Scottish electorate must vote for the assembly does not defeat their plans.

Apart from a publicity drive

emphasizing the need for everyone eligible to vote, the campaign also wants the register of voters amended before the referendum to ensure that people who have moved or died do not count as "no" votes.

After the meeting Mr James Sillars, a vice-president of the campaign committee, said the ministers had not rejected any of the points made and had agreed to put them to the Government, whose response should be known in about two weeks.

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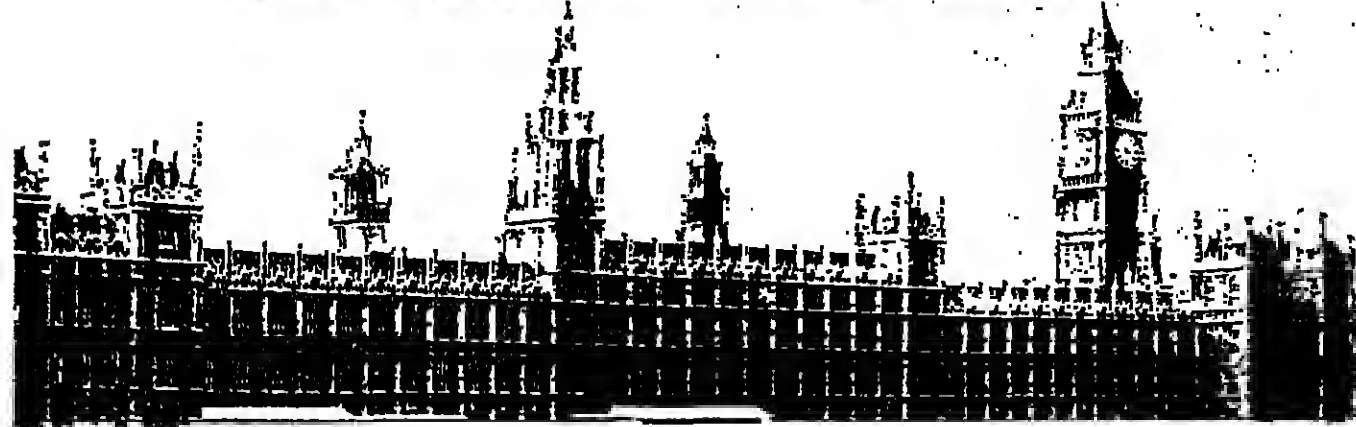
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4 EXPORT OF LIVE FARM ANIMALS Where farm animals suffer hardship and cruelty during transport both for overseas slaughter and further fattening.	5 DOGS IN THE COMMUNITY Where dogs are left to stray, unwanted, and where the majority remain uncensured, without a properly regulated system of centralised or local control.	6 BLOOD SPORTS Where Public Opinion Polls indicate that the majority of people are in favour of banning "blood sports". That is, the hunting with hounds of otters, stags, hares and foxes and also live hare coursing.

The protection of animals against wanton and avoidable cruelty is of serious public concern. There can be no doubt of the importance of this subject. NOW is the time for POSITIVE ACTION. More and more voters are waiting to know where the political parties stand on this moral issue. Ask YOUR M.P. or Parliamentary candidates.

General Election Co-ordinating Committee for Animal Protection

HOME NEWS

Whitehall brief: Dealing with 24,000 'enemy aliens'

Uncovering the real motive for internment

By Peter Hennessy

Among the supposed enemy aliens interned on the Isle of Man during the invasion scare of 1940 were two Scottish miners. They stood out among the philosophers, artists, musicians and bankers from Berlin and Vienna, Jewish refugees from Hitler, with whom they shared their incarceration. Their father, whom they had followed down the pit, had sought temporary work in the Ruhr coalfield in the 1920s, during which the boys had been born.

Returning to Scotland, their nationality had never been sorted out. In July, 1940, the police rounded them up on the strength of their inclusion in a Home Office list of feared potential fifth columnists, although their accents were so thick that they were scarcely comprehensible to the British.

Tumults guarding them, let alone any passing Nazi persecution. Every day they celebrated the lunacy of their predicament by adding to a chart showing how much coal the Home Office was denying the war effort by keeping them there.

Were the 24,000 who were interned under the Royal prerogative, most of whom had suffered terribly under the Nazis and were fanatically loyal to the Allied cause, victims of a crude piece of Whitehall misadministration during the confusion of summer, 1940? Or was there something

more sinister about the operation in which those involved seemed incapable of distinguishing between Jewish refugees, captured German seamen and airmen, and genuine Nazi agents on MI5's list, with whom many of the unfortunate Jews were imprisoned, and from whose perspective anti-Semitism they suffered?

Mr. Ronald Stuart, the historian, is trying to find the answer from such files that have survived as the Public Record Office's Home Office records in 1940, although by 1943 he was a staff captain in the Royal Engineers, is no conspiracy theorist. He believed then, and now, that if a single genuine fifth columnist was discovered from saboteurs, Britain the interments were justified.

What has aroused his suspicions is a document from the refugee section of the Foreign Office, a department which consistently criticised the Home Office, War Office and MI5 throughout the affair. Dated June 27, 1940, it reads: "The department of the Security Service charged with the examination of the loyalty of refugees, has, under the stress of recent currents in public opinion, adopted a rule of thumb that any person of foreign nationality is presumed (almost) to be hostile. This amounts to a confession of failure, for this department



"House-cleaning: ... and to think that I have got the Nobel prize." - Cartoon by an anonymous "enemy alien", 1940.

exists for no other purpose than the examination and judgment of individual cases ... Under the influence of propaganda by the actual fifth column, designed to convince public and military authorities that the real fifth column consists not of themselves, but of refugees from Nazi oppression, the Home Office machinery for classifying persons of enemy nationality into categories according to whether they are friendly, doubtful or hostile to the allied cause, has broken down.

Unfortunately, the author of

the minute, R.T.E. Latham, an Australian, son of a High Court judge, a fellow of All Souls and a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, has not survived to help Mr. Stuart's inquiry. Mr. Latham volunteered his services to the Foreign Office in 1939 and served in the general department temporarily until 1941, when he left to join the RAF. Two years later he was shot down off Norway.

Mr. Stuart found no shortage of former internees with memories and diaries to help the book; he is preparing. What he needs is the assistance of people who worked in the Foreign Office, Home Office, War Office, the police and MI5 in 1940 who can help him to explain the content of the Latham minute. Anyone with information can contact him through Peter Hennessy at *The Times*.

To preserve the country's reputation, an explanation can possibly be found in the generally low calibre of the police, soldiers and officials carrying out the policy on the ground. Just how bad some of them were can be gleaned from a paralyzing minute written by the Foreign Office shortly after the police had arrested Mr. Arthur Koestler, when he disembarked at Bristol from Casablanca, and put him in Pentonville. The diplomat commented: "The Home Office refused him a visa. They probably don't read books."

No hillside welcome for gypsy rovers

There is no welcome in the hillsides of Wales for gypsies. The itinerant families, many of them Irish tinkers, are encountering increasing hostility whenever they attempt to establish permanent settlements.

Wherever they park their caravans they can be sure before the end of their first camp fires have died down, residents near by will be organising a petition demanding their removal.

The opposition is so resolute that many communities and some councils have threatened to defy the law to please their electorates. In some cases they have been thrown into confrontation with county councils, who have a statutory duty to provide permanent sites for the wanderers.

Nowhere is the battle being fought more fiercely than in two villages, Waunarlwyd and Glais, near Swansea, where villagers are determined there shall be "no tinkers", at any cost.

Both villages are in West Glamorgan, where the county council has faced fierce opposition to prevent it from granting sites it is legally bound to provide.

At Glais villagers have been mounting a 24-hour vigil for more than a year around a site designated for gypsies. They have evolved an elaborate early warning system which would mobilise the whole village within minutes if gypsies arrived in the field which has been earmarked for them by the county council.

The authority has encountered a similar determination at

Regional report

Tim Jones Swansea

Waunarlwyd, where villagers have erected barriers around a proposed site and installed an alarm system for calling in immediate reinforcements if needed.

Not untypically, the difficulties of enforcing the Caravan Site Act, 1968, has led to a cooling of relations between the county council and Swansea City Council, which has so far rejected 40 suggested sites for 50 or more gypsy families who have been wandering around the city perimeters for more than four years.

Far from entering into the spirit of the Act, the city council prefers to please its ratepayers, and it has spent more than £27,000 on blocking off possible sites and thousands of pounds more on evicting gypsy families who have settled on other permission.

Both Swansea and Glais have made clear that they do not want the gypsies because of their alien way of life and their "dirty, offensive" habits. Gypsy families are "naturally hurt by those allegations, and claim that it is a small minority which gives them a bad name."

The people of Cardiff also dislike the gypsies and they, too, have the backing of a sympathetic council. Last week Councillor Ronald Watkins,

Conservative leader of the city council, told his officers to keep on evicting gypsies "until they realize they are not wanted in this city. Let us keep on harassing them."

Eviction, however, is no easy matter. On the last occasion when the city council sent 15 uniformed men to get names so that injunctions could be issued, they were met with a hail of stones. Although they succeeded in getting 12 names, those were probably false.

Gypsies in the Carmarthen area will also find that there is no sanctuary for them. Members of the district council have given a warning that they will ignore the Welsh Office and defy the law to prevent them settling around the town.

One council member, Mr. William Evans, warned those members of the council who accepted the need for a site that they might be asked to provide one in the area they represented.

"I would totally oppose any intrusion into the parish by tinkers or gypsies. If these people know how to keep themselves tidy and clean and appreciated a good site, I would be the first to allow them in."

Clearly, Welsh people have no romantic notion of camp fires, violins and gaily painted caravans. Rightly or wrongly, the gypsies are reviled and it will take more than an Act of Parliament to change attitudes.

In order to prevent local councils from using delaying tactics, the Welsh Office has ordered authorities not to harass gypsies who set up unauthorized camps if there are no authorized sites available.

Press body ruling criticized

From John Charlton Preston

Lancashire County Council Police Committee is to consider a Press Council adjudication against it on Thursday.

The committee, which handled the dismissal of Mr. Stanley Parr, the former chief constable, complained to the Press Council that the *Lancashire Evening Post*, published details of a confidential report on the allegations against Mr. Parr written by an outside investigating officer, Sir Douglas Osmond, then Chief Constable of Hampshire.

The Press Council ruled that the newspaper was justified in publishing the report, as it was in the general public interest.

In a recent statement Council of the Lancashire Police Committee said:

"I believe that the Press Council have missed the main point of the committee's complaint, which was that the publication of the substance of the Osmond report and the call by the *Lancashire Evening Post* for the resignation or sacking of Mr. Parr was calculated to influence the police committee in a quasi-judicial process and to prejudice a fair and open consideration by the committee, to the first instance, of the case against Mr. Parr."

The Press Council do not appear to have understood the procedure as they refer to an inquiry being conducted by a trained lawyer, while it was the attempt of the *Lancashire Evening Post* to put pressure on and to influence the police committee, who had to consider the matter initially, which should have been their main concern.

I do strongly object to the findings that the situation "had been proceeding in secret" and to the long and that public and police confidence and morale were affected.

The procedure and the decision of the Press Council in this case once again seriously call in question the effectiveness of the Press Council in dealing with complaints against the conduct of newspapers, who in some instances without a proper sense of responsibility.

Puccini encouraging 'opera for all'

By Kenneth Gosling

The little theatres and halls of Treorchy are ringing with the music of Puccini's music sung by four principal soloists of the Welsh National Opera.

It has been taking opera in the people with the idea that they will be encouraged to go to full-scale productions at Treorchy and to sing in the choir of the company. It has, however, been hard work for the four singers and particularly for the small technical staff.

Last week the three-ton van driven by Ian Douglas left for Treorchy at 11 am. With him went Alan Wainwright, stage manager and producer, and after they set up the props and saw to the lighting, they had to change out of working clothes to become on-stage flunkies.

Treorchy is a typical of the places the opera is visiting with its pastiche of Puccini numbers linked by readings from the composer's letters. The Parc and Dare Miners' Institute was offered to the Welsh National

Opera as its principal home two years ago; during the war the hall was used for forces' concerts by Air Adrian Boult and the BBC Symphony.

Dai Thomas, known as Dai Parc and Dare, has been associated with the hall for forty years, coping, he says, with Russian ballet (dramatic stage work) and all the greenery he could lay hands on) regular concerts by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir and the famed Parc and Dare brass band.

Company fined over error in catalogue

By Marcel Berlins Legal Correspondent

Arllaw, Britain's first free legal information and advice service, has been fined £100 for an error in its catalogue.

The visual artist is probably the most legally vulnerable practitioner in the creative arts. Musicians can get protection and advice from the Musicians' Union, actresses from Equity and literary agents look after writers' interests.

But the struggling visual artist has no similar advantage. Two years ago Mr. Henry Lysons, a barrister and moving spirit behind Arllaw, found after research in England and Wales that artists had a considerable need for legal advice. A conference of artists, art administrators and in-

Free legal advice service for artists

terested lawyers earlier this year confirmed that.

The executive director of Arllaw, Mr. Hamish Sandison, has been managing a similar organization in San Francisco.

He sees four main legal areas affecting the artist: contracts, copyright, tax and insurance. Artists and landlords, an embryo Arllaw service which has worked for some months on a limited basis has disclosed some of the difficulties artists face.

One is the apparent refusal of the authorities to accept "artist" as a category of employment. The result is that it is virtually impossible to register as an unemployed artist, and the Inspector of Taxes usually refuses to allow artists business deductions and allowances available to other professions.

Other examples include: Tu-

what compensation is an artist entitled if a gallery damages or loses his work? What are the legal consequences of an artist using his residence as his studio? What rights has an artist if his work is reproduced on a passing T-shirt?

Mr. Sandison, however, sees Arllaw as doing more than merely providing advice to individuals. He wants to see a model form of contract used in all transactions between artists and, for instance, galleries, or people commissioning their work.

He would eventually like to see increased financial rights for artists in the second or subsequent sales of their work. The concept of an artist getting a share in his work increases in value and passes from hand to hand is accepted in some European countries.

Other examples include: Tu-

Science report

Bacteriology: Stomach acid a protection

By Our Medical Correspondent

Overland travellers to the Far East are less likely to be troubled by diarrhoea if they drink beer than if they smoke cannabis. That is one conclusion of a research programme into the effects of stomach acid on cholera bacteria carried out at the Center for Vaccine Development, Maryland University, United States, and mentioned briefly in *The Times* yesterday.

That protection against swallowed bacteria is given by the stomach acid has been recognized since the nineteenth century, but only recently has the practical importance of that protection been clearly proved. Tests on cholera victims in Bangladesh have shown that many of them have abnormal low amounts of acid in their stomach. In an experiment in an

American medical school, a test dose of cholera bacteria was given to 45 volunteers (fully informed of the possible consequences). All developed diarrhoea, but its severity was inversely proportional to their stomach acid content.

In the more detailed experiments at the vaccine centre, doses of cholera bacteria were given to 157 volunteers who had previously been interrogated about their alcohol consumption and smoking habits. Regular beer drinkers had the highest concentrations of stomach acid and, not unexpectedly, showed the greatest resistance to the cholera bacteria. Just over half the volunteers smoked cannabis regularly, and 44 per cent of those who smoked it more than two days a week had no acid at all in their empty stomach. Again, as might be expected, diar-

rhoea was most severe in that group. Those cannabis smokers who also drank beer preserved their stomach acid production. The conclusion to be drawn, the American research group says, is that tourists from developed nations who travel abroad and indulge in cannabis or ganja (preparation of the drug) while also drinking locally prepared food and drink may be at high risk of contracting severe diarrhoea unless protected by their alcohol intake. As a place of additional speculation, the group wonders whether the recent decline in frequency of peptic ulcers in western nations could be linked with the increased use of cannabis in the past 10 years.

Source: *The Lancet*, Oct. 21, 1978

WEST EUROPE

CDU unimpressed by Herr Kohl's attempt to inspire confidence

From Patricia Clough, Ludwigschafen, Oct 23.

Criticized by party colleagues, disappointed by a recent election failure, plagued by his own and with little prospect of winning power in the foreseeable future, Herr Helmut Kohl today sought to take firmer command of his Christian Democratic Union.

Colleagues who attempt to polish their own images at his expense were warned at the CDU party conference here that they will be "crushing themselves out of our midst."

Herr Kohl said the party had paid too much attention to individuals and minorities in its apparent reference to Herr Franz Josef Strauss's Christian Social Union, the CDU's more conservative and often obstreperous Bavarian sister party.

In future the minorities would have to have more consideration for the majority. Unity and solidarity were indispensable, Herr Kohl said.

They were fighting words but they lasted only a few minutes. Herr Kohl was somehow still unable to offer the charisma and new ideas which have made him a popular figure since his victory in 1980.

He had been expected to couple a firmer assertion of leadership with a more liberal statement of policy. The only way the party can collect more votes at the next election, the reasoning goes here, is to take them away from the liberal Free Democrats, and their partners in coalition with the Social Democrats.

The conference is expected to approve a basic party programme—the first the CDU has ever had—which members hope

may attract more moderate liberals, young people and women. But today Herr Kohl's enthusiastic support of the so-called *Berufsbrot* and the exclusion of extremists from public jobs, and plans to encourage families to have more children appear unlikely to convert many people to this party's left.

Herr Kohl is in an unenviable position. The CDU and CSU together are proportionally the biggest parties both in West Germany as a whole and in nine of its 11 *Länder*. Only 350,000 votes are between them and the absolute majority in Bonn. Yet thanks to the alliance of the Free Democrats and the Social Democrats they are kept out of power in national politics and in three of the *Länder* where they are strongest.

They know that under normal circumstances they are unlikely to win any more votes and at the same time there appears no chance that the Free Democrats will change sides before the 1980 elections. At this half-way point in the present legislature there is a political immobility in West Germany which for the Opposition is enervating.

At the same time, Herr Kohl has to cope with two formidable opponents. On the one side there is Herr Helmut Schmidt, more popular and successful than any Chancellor since Dr. Konrad Adenauer, and Dr. Strauss, respected at home and abroad, strong, granite-hard and with a devastating ability to bowl Herr Kohl over with a flick of his vicious tongue.

On the other is Herr Strauss, newly elected Prime Minister of Bavaria, who outstrips Herr Kohl in political cunning and sheer personality and makes no secret of his low opinion of his leadership.



The foreign dignitaries have departed after Pope John Paul II's reception but one bishop stays to catch up on the news.

Pope discusses church-state relations with Polish leader

Rome, Oct 23.—Pope John Paul II today met Mr Henryk Jablonski, the Polish head of state, for talks which were said to have covered church-state relations in Poland.

This is a delicate subject in the deeply Catholic country and one with which the Pope was deeply concerned as Archbishop of Cracow.

He received heads of state and other dignitaries, including Mr Jablonski, for brief chats before addressing all the delegations in the Benedictine Hall above the entrance to St Peter's Basilica.

At the end of the audience he received the Polish delegation in private. As well as Mr Jab-

lonski, he talked to the head of the Polish Government's office of religious affairs, Mr Kazimierz Kukul.

The Pope told the official delegations that the presence of heads of state and governments at his inaugural Mass was a joy and honour he felt deeply.

"Above all, it seemed to me to signify homage rendered to the Catholic Church and to the Holy See for their actions in the service of the Gospel and of humanity," he said.

Among the people received in audience were King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, the Presidents of Austria, Lebanon and Ireland, and the United States delegation.

After seeing Mr Jablonski, the Pope lunched with Polish bishops in the Vatican and later received some of the thousands of Polish pilgrims.

In his address the Pope called on world leaders to ensure human progress and peace by cooperating more closely with their citizens, and pledged church help.

"Certainly men of state and their qualified aides have as their first priority their own nations and the well being of their citizens."

But one certainty imposes itself more and more, and you are the first ones to be convinced of it: that there cannot be real human progress and

endurable peace without a courageous, loyal and unselfish search for cooperation and unity among all people."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, today renewed his call for intercommunion between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches which have been divided since the Reformation.

"I am very anxious that we should make progress towards intercommunion," he said.

The Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, which began a search for reunion under Pope Paul VI, had moved far towards understanding each other in recent decades.

Dr Coggan first appealed for

intercommunion during a visit to Rome last year, but the Catholic Church responded by saying that basic issues of division must be resolved before the Eucharist could be shared.

Dr Coggan added that he hoped there would soon be some implementation of the joint study agreements between the two churches on the Eucharist, the priesthood and authority.

He admitted that there was still a degree of prejudice in Britain against the Roman Catholic Church. "There is prejudice. I have no doubt there is in all churches," he said.—Reuters and UPI.

Terrorist bomb injures Ceuta police officer

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Oct 23.

A police inspector has been injured in a terrorist bomb explosion in the Spanish North African enclave of Ceuta, one of the zones claimed by Morocco.

The explosion occurred late on Sunday evening. Alerted by three youths who heard a ticking sound from a package lying on the ground, a police bomb disposal squad went into action as evening strollers scattered. Despite the precautions, the bomb went off unexpectedly, injuring the leader of the squad. He was reported to be out of danger this morning. Moroccan nationalists are suspected.

At almost the same time two policemen were shot dead and two others wounded in the Basque country.

Four members of the paramilitary Civil Guard police force walked into an ambush on their way back to their barracks at Las Arenas after duty at a local football match. Two urban guerrilla units opened fire on them with machine-guns and a shotgun from behind walls lining the road. The policemen did not have a chance to draw their guns.

£1m mail theft

Zurich, Oct 23.—A Swiss postman, Josef Ulrich, who stole mail bags stuffed with 3.17m Swiss francs (more than £1m) and fled to Sri Lanka was jailed for three years here today.

Karamanlis talk with M Giscard

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Oct 23.

Mr Konstantinos Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, is visiting Paris to enlist French support for the early entry of his country into the European Community. He had already stopped off at Rome and is to visit Dublin.

He lunched with President Giscard d'Estaing at the Champs-Élysées, near Paris, on the night of Monday, Oct 23.

On the entry of Greece, Mr Karamanlis is preaching to the converted where France is concerned. Both the President and his Government have publicly stated on several occasions their wish that Greece might become a full member next year.

On principles, therefore, there is complete agreement between Paris and Athens. Greece has been an associate member of the EEC since 1961. Full membership was specifically written into its treaty of association and its entry is regarded in Paris as both right and necessary. But there are problems of timing and terms.

Crash pilot defended by Dutch

From Our Correspondent, Amsterdam, Oct 23.

The Dutch civil aviation board disagreed with the decision of the Spanish Ministry of Transport, published last Wednesday, that the pilot of the KLM Boeing 747 was primarily to blame for the air disaster on Tenerife.

The KLM airliner, which was taking off, collided on the runway of Los Rodeos airport with a Pan-American Boeing 747.

The Spanish report says the Dutch pilot took off without clearance. According to the results of the Dutch enquiry the pilot was convinced he had been authorised to take off.

It is usual in international civil aviation to pre-arrange communications, the Dutch say. So when the Dutch pilot told the tower, "We are ready to take off," he was at the same time, requesting permission to do so. He mistook the acknowledgement of his message as authorisation to do so. The rest of the tower's answer telling him to "stand by" was lost.

Greenland to introduce liquor rationing

Copenhagen, Oct 23.—Strict rationing of liquor is to be introduced in Greenland on January 1 to ease the island's chronic alcoholism problem.

By 13 votes to three the National Council has passed measures under which people over the age of 18 will be given 2 drink coupons a month. The drinking ration on a point system, a larger one rating one point, or one coupon, a bottle of wine six points, and a bottle of spirits 24 points.

Coupons—valid for only one month—have to be surrendered at restaurants, if alcoholic beverages are consumed, and the restrictions ban home brewing and the import of alcoholic extracts.—Reuters.

British general accused by Oslo of meddling

Oslo, Oct 23.—Mr Rolf Hansen, the Norwegian Defence Minister, today accused General Sir Peter Whiteley, the Nato Northern Supreme Commander, of "sticking his nose into Norwegian affairs."

Mr Hansen's statement to the Norwegian press was in answer to remarks by the British general in the Oslo newspaper *Aftenposten* last Friday in which he was quoted as saying he was disappointed in the Norwegian Government's defence budget for 1979 which did not meet the agreed 3 per cent growth figure.

General Whiteley also said he hoped the Norwegian Parliament would "find an occasion to set a good example."

PARLIAMENT, October 23, 1978

MPs want £625m added to EEC budget next year

European Parliament, Luxembourg.

More than £625m will be added to the European Community budget for 1979 if Parliament, in a special three-day session which began today, accepts amendments proposed to the budget by its specialist committees and endorsed by its committee on budgets.

The amendments would bring the budget for 1979 to the sum of money which will actually be spent in 1979—up to £8,925m from the £8,300m proposed by the Council of Ministers. Originally the European Commission had suggested a budget of £8,555m but this was reduced by the Council.

If the amendments before Parliament are accepted it will represent an increase of 14.6 per cent over 1978.

The budgets committee is asking for an increase of 29.5 per cent over 1978 in "commitments"—the sums of money voted to cover obligations entered into in 1979. If amendments before the special session are passed the extra for commitments will be £1,365m. The Council had proposed £1,022m.

In their draft budget the Council of Ministers proposed that £6,250m should be allocated for expenditure on the common agricultural policy, £322m on social policy, £20m on the regional fund, £304m on cooperation and development, £170m on research, energy, industry and transport.

Under the proposed amendments £142m would be allocated to the social policy, £110m to vocational training. An extra £147m is proposed for the

regional fund, £125m of it for EEC "measures" in support of regional policy and £22m for specific Community measures. An extra £302m is proposed for regional fund commitments.

The amendments suggested expenditure of an extra £51m on food aid, £89m on agriculture, £25m on energy and research, £30m for development and co-operation.

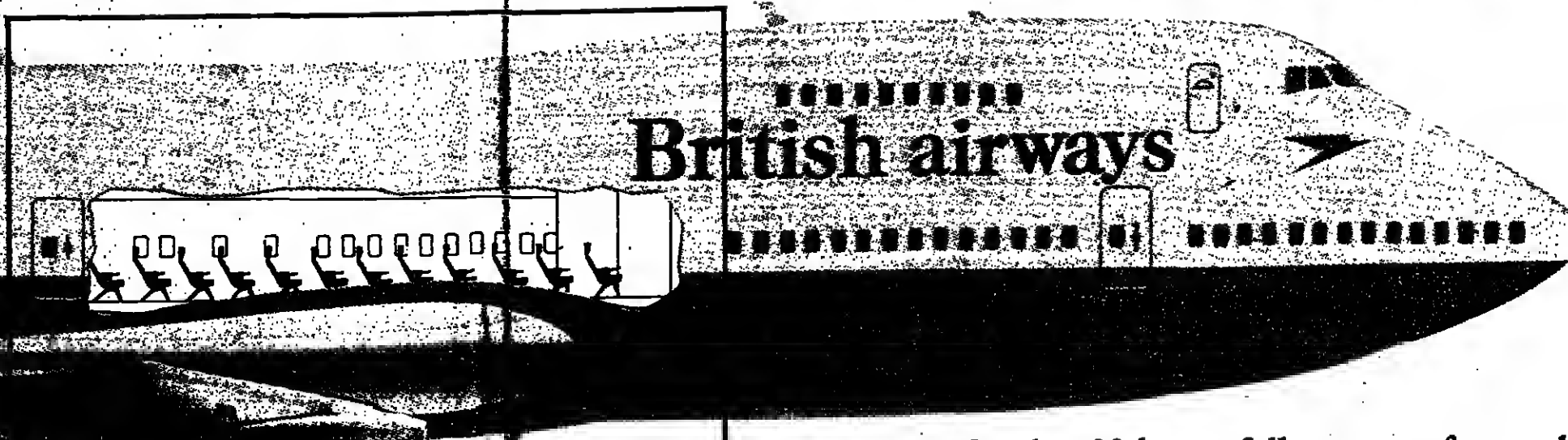
Among numerous miscellaneous items is an amendment suggesting that an additional £5m should be spent on transport projects such as the Channel tunnel.

The budgets committee respected the idea of an "austerity budget" which, it stated, had been adopted by the Commission in its original proposals and had been inappropriate from the start. Such an idea, it said, had also been clearly rejected by the European Council in Bremen.

The committee stated that the rate of growth of the budget provided an index of the Community's political resolve to proceed towards integration. The slower rate of growth suggested in the Commission's original proposals appeared to be an indication of its inability to make the Community move forward and an admission of a policy of stagnation.

The committee called for greater attention to be given to a common transport policy, the launching of a uniform community policy on transport covering fair rates, surveillance of maritime waters, inspection of sea routes, and protection of the marine environment. It stated that the implementation of a common industrial policy should at long last be converted into practical policy.

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OVERSEAS

Shah frees 1,451 prisoners as gesture of conciliation towards opposition critics

From Tony Allaway

Tehran, Oct. 23
The Iranian Government announced today that 1,451 prisoners will be freed on Thursday to mark the Shah's birthday. They will include 1,126 political detainees.

Mr. Muhammad Baheri, the Justice Minister, said those released would be "fully compensated" for their confinement, and be entitled to return to their former jobs.

The move forms part of the Government's campaign to placate religious and political opposition and prepare the ground for democratic elections next year, but it is unlikely to appease all the Shah's critics.

In the main those released were imprisoned for possession of banned material, such as books and pamphlets, or simply for expressing views against the Shah. Those convicted of acts of terrorism are to remain in prison.

In a letter sent today to Mr. Jafar Sharif-Emami, the Prime Minister, a group of families of political prisoners demanded the release of all prisoners. They said that the prisoners had been forced to make legally worthless confessions under torture and were

all tried by military tribunals without the right to defend themselves.

Much of Iran's political limelight has switched to Paris where the religious leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, figurehead of the opposition drive, lives in exile.

Opposition leaders in Tehran are showing increasing concern that the ayatollah's untrammelled resistance to the Shah is threatening to split the opposition at a crucial time. His demand for the removal of the Shah and his replacement by an Islamic government is clearly at odds with the majority of religious and political figures here who want to see a return to the constitution, which guarantees the Shah as head of state.

Mr. Mehdi Bazargan, leader of the Iran Freedom Movement, is already in Paris for discussions with the ayatollah, and the National Front leader, Mr. Karim Sanjabi, plans to fly to Paris soon for talks.

The Iranian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Ardeshir Zahedi, has left Paris without meeting the ayatollah, who adamantly refused to meet any emissary of the Shah.

Government sources have said they want the ayatollah to

return, provided he ends his opposition to the Shah, to defuse the crisis. "Both the Government and much of the opposition think Khomeini is out of touch with the reality in Iran," an Iranian political source said. "They believe that if he returned he would stop being a myth and become a human being."

The streets of Hamedan, West Iran, were virtually deserted today after 10 hours of rioting yesterday in which at least 19 people are thought to have died. Schools and most shops and offices were closed and the military moved in heavy armour to prevent further outbreaks.

In Tehran the Government has persuaded security forces not to intervene in student demonstrations on their campuses.

The wave of public sector pay strikes appears to be on the wane. Postal workers will end their 20-day strike tomorrow and workers at the Abadan oil refinery, the world's largest, have also returned. A customs strike ended earlier this week as did a stoppage by gas delivery drivers; bottled gas is the staple of Tehran's cooking stoves.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent

writes: The Western nations, particularly the United States and Britain, bear a heavy responsibility for the violations of human rights in Iran and should end their policy of support for the Shah, an international commission of inquiry urged yesterday.

The members of the commission, which spent 10 days in Iran at the invitation of the Iranian Jurists' Committee, were Signor Carlo Francasassi, Christian Democratic MP for Venice; Professor James Cockcroft of Rutgers University; and Mr. Russell Kerr, Labour MP for Hounslow.

In a preliminary report issued yesterday, the commission claimed that the present regime was viewed as illegitimate by the overwhelming majority of the population and by all classes. It added that Iran was a country void of civil liberties and the rule of law.

"The West's political support of the Shah, and continued supplying of armaments to him, hardly becomes nations bent on the preservation and strengthening of peace and justice in the Middle East and elsewhere," the report stated. "It should, in our view, be altered forthwith."

US mid-term elections

Senate minority leader hopes for increased support in Tennessee

From Trevor Fishlock

Nashville, Oct. 23

It would be a sensational upset if Mr. Howard Baker, the Senate minority leader who wants the Republican presidential nomination in 1980, were to be defeated in his run for a third term in Tennessee.

Few doubt that he will win; the main interest is in how large his victory will be. A handsome win would be an important underwriting of his campaign slogan tries to make the most of this point, claiming that she has not lost touch with Tennessee.

It seems, however, that this sort of approach is not making a deep impression on the voters. True, Mr. Baker opened more than a few with his vote in favour of the Panama Canal treaty but apart from that his political actions have kept to the conservative track.

Ha has been endorsed by two

big newspapers in the state. Whatever Mrs. Eiskind says, the *Chattanooga Times* commends him as "Tennesseean through and through".

The *Nashville Banner* refers to his "honest and crucial leadership" at the time of the Watergate hearings, his stand on defence, advocacy of tax cuts and opposition to the labour reform Bill which would have damaged the interests of small businessmen. As for Mrs. Eiskind, she has the courage to make a decision without "partisan posturing".

Mr. Baker became something of a marmite idol for his television appearances at the time of Watergate.

Because the result of the contest is seen as so certain, newspapers and television are taking a lot more interest in the more exciting race for state governor.

Mr. Baker's political actions have kept to the conservative track.

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Syrian truce with Iraq for talks on Sadat treaty

From Robert Fisk

Beirut, Oct. 23

The ideological dispute between the rival Baathist parties of Syria and Iraq will be placed in abeyance when President Assad of Syria makes his journey to Baghdad tomorrow for the first talks in four years between leaders of the two countries.

Officials in Damascus made it clear today that his discussion with President Ahmed al-Bakr of Iraq will concentrate solely on plans to prevent the implementation of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in the hope that the two countries' private feud can be solved "automatically".

In the familiar rhetoric of the official Syrian news agency, President Assad will be consulting President Bakr about "the possibilities of a common front against the mad Zionist attack against our region and the capitulationist, unilateral reconciliation of the Baathist regime with Israel".

But unity in diversity has never proved to be a very lasting commodity in the Arab world and for the present at least—it is probably fair to regard the new unity of Syria and Iraq as a strictly temporary affair born of political expediency rather than trust. This, of course, has not dampened the publically expressed enthusiasm of both sides for tomorrow's meeting.

In Baghdad today the state-controlled press has given front-page treatment to the forthcoming discussions and last night Syria opened its frontier with Iraq. The frontier was closed last March to prevent—in the Syrian Government's own words—"killers and terrorists crossing from Iraq into Syria to perpetrate terrorist attacks".

Meanwhile, King Jordan and Saudi Arabia have confirmed that they will be attending the Baghdad summit in 10 days' time. A Jordanian Government spokesman said that his country hoped that the summit would produce a peace treaty that would serve the interests of the Arab states—"which was, perhaps, a courteous way of saying that Jordan does not wish to see the Arab world plunged into another war with Israel".

In any case, the Saudis are hardly likely to support such a notion—even if the Iraqis have suggested as much in the past—and, in this way at least, the presence in Baghdad of conservative and moderate Arab nations may be of advantage to President Sadat of Egypt.

The Syrian Government newspaper *Rishm*, which now regularly refers to Mr. Sadat as "the traitor", claimed this morning that the United States had been exerting "pressure" on some states not to attend the Baghdad summit—a clear reference to Jordan and to King Hussein. The article, in line with the Americans over Camp David.

The Iraqis are certainly taking no chances of sabotage of a different kind: they have ordered Baghdad airport to close down during the daylight hours from October 23 to November 9.

There was no comment from the rejectionist states today about President Sadat's decision to return the latest draft Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty for further study. An Egyptian presidential spokesman emphasized that the study would involve only certain parts of the draft. These parts are believed to involve some concrete link between the treaty and the rights of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Such concern on the part of President Sadat is, however, not going to temper the anger of Syria, Iraq, even though the Israelis suspect that this is Mr. Sadat's intention.

Guilty plea by Rolling Stone

Toronto, Oct. 23—Keith Richards, the Rolling Stone guitarist, pleaded guilty to possessing heroin and today more serious charges of drug trafficking was dropped. His charges date back to February 19, 1977, when Mr. Richards, on tour with the British rock group, was arrested after police found heroin in his hotel bedroom.

Rock musician tries to kill himself

New York, Oct. 23—The British punk rock musician, Sid Vicious, yesterday, cut his wrist, telling friends he wanted to join in death the woman he is accused of murdering, police said.

He is being held for tests in the psychiatric ward of Bellevue Hospital after being treated for cuts on both arms.

Vicious was awaiting trial on charges of killing his American girl friend, Nancy Spungen, 10 days ago. He was free on \$30,000 (\$25,000) bail.

Vicious, whose real name is John Simon Ritchie, has been having methadone treatment to break a heroin addiction. —Reuter.

Greek opposition victories in large cities

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Oct. 23

Opposition mayors retained control of Athens and Piraeus, as well as of several provincial towns, in yesterday's run-off in the Greek local elections.

While the opposition parties hailed this as an important victory, the Government insisted that political conclusions were unwarranted, seeing that the ruling party had nominated no candidates and the Government had maintained absolute neutrality.

A Government spokesman said: "In the local elections of 1975, 172 opposition candidates and 92 independents were elected in the country's 264 municipalities. This time only 123 opposition candidates won compared with 141 independents."

In Athens, Mr. Dimitris Beis, supported by all the opposition parties, won with 57 per cent of the vote after the disqualified Communist candidate, Mr. Nikis Theodorakis, threw in his 16 per cent share from the first round behind Mr. Beis's 40.6 per cent.

Mr. George Pylas, a Cabinet Minister until last month, who had led last Sunday's poll with 42 per cent as an independent conservative, yesterday maintained his strength.

However, the opposition press emphasized that in the parliamentary elections one year ago the conservative vote in Athens was close to 50 per cent, including the extreme right.

A Government spokesman questioned that the extreme right had supported Mr. Pylas this time.

In Piraeus, Mr. Aristidis

Skyllakis who had served as mayor during the dictatorship and was 1,600 votes short of victory last Sunday, suffered a serious setback following a nationwide outcry against the election of a junta sympathizer. His share of the vote dropped from 48.6 to 46.6.

His opposition rival Mr. George Kyriakakis, obviously benefiting from a 10-point drop in the city's high abstention rate, won with 53.4 per cent.

The government spokesman pointed out that although in the last general election the extreme right-wing polled barely 5 per cent of the vote, Mr. Skyllakis had received nearly 47 per cent. "This proves that no political conclusions can be drawn from the results".

Black Africa, he said, was no longer fighting only the minority governments in Salisbury and Pretoria. Now they were also battling vested Western interests represented by the 27 American senators who invited the Rhodesian Prime Minister to Washington.

"What worries me is this complicity between Western countries and the racist, imperialist, capitalist (but) I don't know how people who profess to be Christians can do such things", Dr. Kaunda said.

The Zambian leader may still be prepared to attend an all-party conference "under the original Anglo-American proposals", which he said contained

Salisbury, Oct. 23.—Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, today sent a personal message congratulating the Rhodesian defence forces on their raids against nationalist guerrilla bases last week.

Not only will this set back the terrorist offensive but it has raised the morale of the Rhodesians generally," Mr. Smith said in a message to the combined operations commander, Lieutenant-General Peter Walls.

Lusaka: The Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu), the group led by Mr. Robert Mugabe, today denied that Chief Jeremiah Chirau, one of the black members of the Salisbury coalition, Reports from Salisbury had said Chief Chirau planned to meet Mr. Mugabe in Geneva.—Reuter.

Smith praise for forces over raids

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Britain offers three Rhodesian options

By David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has now sent to all the main parties concerned in a Rhodesian settlement a revised set of proposals on the transition period to majority rule and full independence.

The proposals, which elaborate the original idea of a resident commissioner to supervise the transition, present three options.

Options (a) and (c) suggest a governing council, whose priority tasks would be to elaborate the constitution and prepare for elections within six months.

Between the two alternatives is that in (a) the resident commissioner, who has been designated as Lord Carver, would simply be one of the members of the council, while in (c) he would be chairman with a casting vote.

Option (b) suggests that a

referendum be held after three months to test Rhodesian opinion on the proposed independence constitution. If the vote was in favour, the country would become independent at that point, with the final election to achieve majority rule following three months later.

British officials emphasize that there has been no change in the basic principles laid down in the Anglo-American proposals. The latest refinements made in the original proposals are seen as a way of encouraging the parties concerned to get together and negotiate.

In practice, however, it seems that the very complexity of the options makes their discussion somewhat academic, and in the present atmosphere of racial unrest and acrimony after the Rhodesian raids into Zambia there is little hope of a conference taking place.

The war will continue, President Kaunda says

Continued from page 1

blame him for failing to do enough to prevent it.

"His Administration has made a gross political error in allowing the rebel leader (Mr. Smith) to go and issue orders from Washington to move against Zambia."

"I shall not forget Smith gave orders to kill those innocent girls from Washington", he added.

Black Africa, he said, was no longer fighting only the minority governments in Salisbury and Pretoria. Now they were also battling vested Western interests represented by the 27 American senators who invited the Rhodesian Prime Minister to Washington.

"What worries me is this complicity between Western countries and the racist, imperialist, capitalist (but) I don't know how people who profess to be Christians can do such things", Dr. Kaunda said.

The Zambian leader may still be prepared to attend an all-party conference "under the original Anglo-American proposals", which he said contained

certain conditions. But he would not go to peace talks without those conditions. Mr. Smith said recently in Washington that he would be prepared to meet the black nationalist leaders without conditions.

Meanwhile, he said, the war would continue despite the fact that Zambia was unable to launch an offensive against Rhodesia.

"That man (Mr. Smith) is an enemy on African soil. I am going to continue to fight him until he is uprooted. If you and I die," he told the gathering "then our children will rise up. Nowhere have people fought for independence and failed. The people will succeed, the racist regimes will be overthrown."

Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the Rhodesian guerrilla leader, tonight left on an aircraft bound for Lusaka, Angola, and Moscow. There was no indication of the reason for his journey nor the final destination. Thousands of guerrillas of his Zippa forces are undergoing training in Angola under Cuban and Soviet advisers, while Mr. Nkomo receives large quantities of arms from the Soviet Union.

Prince of Wales starts Yugoslavia tour

From Dossa Trevisan

Dubrovnik, Oct. 23

Sitting at the controls of an Andover of the Queen's Flight, the Prince of Wales landed today to begin his five-day official visit to Yugoslavia.

He is to meet President Tito and travel to four of Yugoslavia's six constituent republics in the course of a heavy schedule of sightseeing and official ceremonies.

Prince Charles was welcomed by Mr. Stjepan Dronjak, a member of the State Presidency, at whose invitation the visit was arranged, and after a brief ceremony was taken on a con-

ducted tour of the ancient Adriatic port of Dubrovnik.

The visit symbolizes the importance British attaches to Yugoslavia's position as a country which, though communist, is independent and non-aligned.

Although the tour has no political significance, the Prince's hosts will undoubtedly take the opportunity of reminding him of Yugoslavia's wish to maintain strong economic relations with Britain.

The highlight will be a luncheon party given to the royal visitor by President Tito, at which official speeches will be exchanged. This is expected to take place tomorrow.

Britons off to chess Olympiad

By Philip Howard

England's men and women chess teams flew to Buenos Aires yesterday to compete in the world chess Olympiad, which opens tomorrow under the Swiss system of competition. The International Olympic Committee has made a protest about the way that the chess players describe their team championships as Olympiads.

The six men and four women are taking no parapsychologists or Hindu mystics with them as auxiliaries, and will have to rely on simple ability. But they stand a good chance of doing better than ever before.

The men came eighth in Moscow in 1956, and third in Haifa last year, when the pawns pushed from the Soviet Union and East Europe did not take part.

England recently won the world youth team championship in Mexico, and English chess is in the ascendant. The Russians are firm favourites to win in Argentina, and the Hungarians to come second. Informed sources, that is our

psychologist from Cambridge in the men's team, said: "If the short term, the public has damaged the reputation of chess. In the long term it will bring chess additional publicity and money. Paranoia is an advantage in a chess player."

John Nunn, a junior research fellow in mathematics at Oriel College, Oxford, said: "I don't know whether chess-players as a group are any odder than university lecturers as a group."

Susan Caldwell, a physics student from Bristol University in the women's team, said: "There is no reason that I see why women should not be as good as men at chess except that girls are encouraged and are segregated into their own championships."

Asked how one trains chess team, Robert Wade, a trainer, said: "With discipline. The players were warned not to drink too much alcohol, in case it combi with jet lag to disturb their end games."

They flew off in as spirits as are available chess players to meet the h of the world over 13 room and four rest days.

"A good schedule and a clean plane. You can't ask for much more on a short flight."

Authentic passenger statement



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Our other destinations in Germany are: Bremen, Hamburg, Hanover, Cologne/Bonn, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart. Consult your Travel Agency or our Yellow Book Timetable for exact details of all our flights.



Lufthansa
German Airlines

Woman burns herself
Perth, Oct. 23.—A 25-year-old oman burned herself to death — a Perth park yesterday by turning petrol over her clothes as setting them alight.



Contemplative aperitif : Mr Vance (right) with Mr Gromyko yesterday

Salt talks 'constructive' but no treaty yet

From Michael Benyon
Moscow, Oct. 23

It looks as though Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, will leave Moscow tomorrow without any agreement in his briefcase on strategic arms limitation (SALT).

There were no formal negotiating sessions this morning, an official spokesman for the American side said, some issues still remained unresolved.

Though Mr. Vance described the three-hour meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, as "useful and constructive,"

it is clear that deadlock has been reached on the ways to overcome the few obstacles holding up a full agreement.

However Mr. Vance told Mr. Gromyko at a luncheon later that there were no difficulties that could not be solved "in a fair and reasonably" and Mr. Gromyko told journalists "We are working, we are working hard. The matter is very complicated." He said the two sides were a little closer than they had been in Washington at the last round of talks three weeks ago.

Mr. Alexander Carter, the State

spokesman would now have to be another person this season, and when this might be, he said that Mr. Vance was undoubtedly surprised or disappointed at not getting an agreement this time. "This is normally where we thought we would be," he said. But the Americans still hoped that a treaty could be concluded before the end of the year.

Much has been made of Mr. Vance's characterization of the talks today and yesterday as "constructive."

Mrs Gandhi in bitter by-election contest

From Kuldeep Nayer
Delhi, Oct 23

When Mrs Indira Gandhi filed her nomination papers in the Constituent Parliamentary by-election a week ago, it looked like a walkover for her, but the opposition from the Janata Party's candidate, Mr Veerendra Patil, is getting tougher and tougher.

Indian newspapers, which have sent their senior correspondents to Chikmagalur, a place which seldom figures in the news, are saying that the outcome is a "toss-up". However, the general impression is that Mrs Gandhi has the edge over her opponents.

Few by-elections have created so much interest and practically every political party has taken a keen interest in the contest. It is being supported by the Communist Party of India (Marxists), the Dravida Munnetra Kazagam (DMK) and the Akali Sikhs.

The Pro-Soviet Communist Party of India has suggested that it will stay independent but its leader, Mr S. A. Dange, has declared his support for Mrs Gandhi. The ruling party in Tamil Nadu state has also sided with its wife.

The Congress Party has yet to decide its course of action, although the Janata Party president has written a letter to seek its support.

The by-election is in full swing. Mr George Fernandes, the Industry Minister, who was under detention during the emergency, is conducting a door-to-door campaign. The Janata theme is that the election is a fight between democracy and Mrs Gandhi.

Mrs Gandhi, for her part, is

addressing 15 to 20 meetings a day, insisting that she imposed the emergency to put democracy back on the track. These posters are plastered with posters in Kannada, the local language, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi.

"Beware. Those who fleeced the poor, murdered democracy and wove a chain of lies have arrived in Chikmagalur and spread their nets to catch votes", says one of the posters in Kannada displayed by the Janata Party in the town.

The poster depicts Mrs. Gandhi in black in the process of denouncing a red mack. Below are the two faces of Mrs. Gandhi is a collection of human skulls with blood dripping from their sides.

Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party has cut out posters and pictures of Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Debraj Urs, the Karnataka Chief Minister, who belongs to Mrs. Gandhi's party. The caption describes them as well-wishers of the lower classes and the downtrodden.

Madras: At least 20 people were wounded today when police fired on a violent mobmen in Tamil Nadu, which is pursuing parades by a one-day general strike, the Press Trust of India reports.

Police opened fire in Memmugudi town in Thanjavur district after the mob set up road blocks all over the place in the state the strike was peaceful.

More than 3,500 people were arrested across the state in an attempt to prevent the strike, which was called by opposition parties to protest against what they said was the Government's labour policy of the Government.—Reuter.

Search goes on for pilot who says he saw UFO

Melbourne, Oct. 23.—A full-scale search was resumed today for a single-engined Cessna 182 aircraft which disappeared over Bass Strait Monday night. The aircraft, Mr. Frederick Valentich, aged 20, reported sighting an unidentified flying object on Saturday. Mr. Valentich on his way to King Island from Melbourne, reported seeing a long object with "a green light and sort of a white light."

He was alone in the aircraft and was near Cape Orway, 95 miles south-west of Melbourne, at 4,500ft when he told Melbourne ground control that he was being followed by a large aircraft with four bright lights.

While travelling at high speed, a Transport Department spokesman said.

When he was asked by controllers (just after 7 pm) whether he could identify the aircraft, Mr. Valentich replied "I do not see an aircraft."

The transmission then ceased. Two minutes later, however, it resumed and Mr. Valentich said: "I'm orbiting (circling) and the thing is coming on top of me also. It has four bright lights and sort of metallic light on the outside."

The pilot reported his engine was choking and rough-idling. He was unable to hover and was being towed backwards over him. There was no contact with the transmission and contact with the aircraft was lost. An oil slick reported by a reconnaissance aircraft about 18 miles north of King Island was not seen and was suspected to have come from a light aircraft.

—UPI and Reuters.



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Inter-City

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Uprising in Cambodia, Hanoi radio claims

Hongkong, Oct. 23.—An upsurge in fighting between the Khmer Rouge in an attempt to overthrow the Government, with rebel soldiers killing their commanding officers in the eastern military region, Hanoi radio claimed tonight.

It said that in the northeastern provinces of Ratanak Kiri and Mondul Kiri, the rebels occupied all roads, cutting supplies to Phnom Penh. Soldiers at the airport in Kompong Cham, capital of the border province of the same name, also maintained.

"Gaining command of the control zone, they were able to coordinate their anti-rebel operations," Hanoi radio said. "The rebels, working with insurrection forces, attacked the towns of Kratie and Kompong Thom in the Kandali military region," the radio said.

Hanoi radio claimed that meetings and demonstrations were being held on state farms and factories. Leaflets were distributed calling on the people to rise up to overthrow the Cambodian Government.

Henchmen of the Phnom Penh regime were being sent to the north-western military region while cruel and brutal soldiers in Battambang were unshipped, the broadcast said.

Vietnam has claimed that the opposition in 16 out of Cambodia's 23 provinces has been organized against the central Government. Hanoi radio's claims of an insurrection in Cambodia

were made one day after military specialists in Bangkok reported that Vietnam had launched a final offensive to overthrow the Phnom Penh regime.

Meanwhile, Cambodia and Vietnam both claimed today to have inflicted heavy casualties on each other's forces in border fighting.

Phnom Penh radio said that from September 1 to October 20, 950 Vietnamese troops had been killed and four tanks and other arms destroyed. Hanoi radio said Vietnamese troops had killed hundreds of Cambodian soldiers in the October invasion and captured 100 prisoners.

The fighting is mostly north and south of the Parrot's Beak area north-west of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Phnom Penh said that despite heavy losses, Vietnamese forces continued to intrude into Cambodia.

Phnom Penh said it was preparing a big dry season offensive.

Western diplomatic sources in Bangkok have discounted reports of a planned Vietnamese drive on Phnom Penh, but agree that fighting could intensify in the mountainous south in later this month.

The Vietnamese are expected to make more use of their air power, which has had limited effectiveness lately because of bad visibility during the monsoon rains.

France has denied it is planning a dry season offensive.—Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

Fourth provincial leader is purged in China

Peking, Oct. 23.—The purge of provincial leaders in China has resulted in the removal of Mr. Jui Chien-shan, of Honan province. He has been replaced by Mr. Tuan Chun-Yi, the Railways Minister. This is the fourth provincial leader dismissal in less than a month.

Mr. Tseng Shao-shan, of Liaoning province, was dismissed at the end of last month, followed by Mr. Wu Yeh, the Mayor of Peking on Oct. 10 and Mr. Hsiao Yu Tsung, leader in the Inner Mongolian autonomous region in the latter of the month.

Mr. Liu's replacement by Mr. Tuan as party first secretary, chairman of the revolutionary committee and political commissar for the Honan military district was revealed in a radio broadcast from the provincial capital of Chengchow.

The radio mentioned Mr. Tuan's participation in the home campaign on ways to end drought, referring to him as his three new titles.

Mr. Liu's removal as leader of Honan province had been expected for some time after

corruption case in Honan involving 160m Yuan (\$50m) was denounced in the official press.

In addition, the former leader who was named as the head of the province in January, 1968, at the height of the Cultural Revolution, was believed to have had close links with the discredited "gang of four" leaders.

Honan province had also been specially mentioned in the press in connexion with sabotage that "gang of four" supporters allegedly committed in the railways at Chengchow.

It seemed that it was the problems affecting Honan's railways that prompted the nomination of the crack team of Railway Ministers to head the province.

It was not known if a new Railway Minister had been named, or if Mr Yuan Chun-yi was going to combine the two posts, which was thought unlikely.

This series of dismissals is the farthest-reaching since the purge in the first months of 1966, when the campaign against the influence of the "gang of four" was beginning.

—Agence France-Presse.

Woman burns herself

Perth, Oct. 23.—A 25-year-old woman burned herself to death in a Perth park yesterday by pouring petrol over her clothes and setting them alight.

Mushroom growth

Sofia.—A 73-year-old Bulgarian peasant picked a mushroom which he had difficulty in putting into the boot of his car—it had a diameter of over 6ft 6in and weighed 19lb.

Law Report October 23 1978

Juries need not agree on details of evidence

Regina v Agbim

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Lawton and Mr Justice Boreham

[Judgment delivered October 18] where a doctor was charged with procuring the execution of valuable securities by deception in that he had submitted National Health Service claim forms for expenses which were incorrect, it had not been necessary for each juror to take the same view about the details of the evidence of incorrectness as every other juror: it was sufficient if they had all agreed that the prosecution had proved the charge on charges. Accordingly the judge had not erred in omitting to direct the jury that in respect of each count they all had to be agreed about at least one of the pieces of evidence relied on by the prosecution to prove that the claim forms had not been correct.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Dr Osita Godfrey Agbim, a registered medical practitioner in Willesden, from his conviction at Middlesex Crown Court (Judge Solomon and a jury) last November on six accounts of procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception, contrary to section 20 (2) of the Theft Act, 1968. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

The particulars of the counts were that Dr Agbim on dates between April 24, 1975, and September 9, 1976, dishonestly and with a view to gain for himself had procured the execution of cheques by the Brent and Harrow Area Health Authority by deception, namely, that statements of gross pay received by him attached to claims for payment in respect of them had been true and correct statements, and that counts 3 and 6) he had been entitled to make

relief claims in respect of ancillary staff.

Mr Quendo Edwards, QC (who did not appear below) and Mr Jonathan Caplan for Dr Agbim; Mr Graham Boul for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, in a reserved judgment, said that Dr Agbim was entitled to claim from the area health authority 70 per cent of the cost of ancillary staff such as receptionists and secretaries employed in his NHS practice. He had to submit each quarter a record of the ancillary staff employed by him, a claim form (ANC 2) for payment and a statement (ANC 3) of the gross pay received by the staff. Form ANC 2 had to be signed by him: "I certify that the attached statement on Form ANC 3 of the gross pay made in an ancillary staff directly employed by me is correct in accordance with my practice as correct." In the case of any relief claim form a supplemental form had to be completed.

The prosecution's case was that Dr Agbim had dishonestly submitted incorrect claim forms, Counts 1, 2, 4 and 5 related to quarters in which he had submitted false claim forms, and counts 3 and 6 related to quarters in which he had submitted the ordinary claim forms, supplemented by claim forms for relief employees. The prosecution had led a mass of evidence in support of the indictment. Its case fell under three heads: (1) that he had claimed that he had paid two invoices for himself; (2) that he had claimed that he had employed a number of persons whom he had not employed; (3) that he had claimed that some of his employees had been employed for more hours than they had been.

The prosecution's case had been a formidable one for Dr Agbim to answer. If the jury

did not accept the various explanations and details that he made, there was ample evidence to justify his conviction on every count, provided that they had been properly directed. Mr Edwards submitted that they had not been. The gravamen of Mr Edwards' main submission was that the judge had not directed the jury that they could not find that any one of the claim forms mentioned in the indictment had not been a true or correct statement unless they were all agreed that one, and the same one, of the many pieces of evidence led by the prosecution proved false. He submitted that it would have been possible for them to have returned a verdict of guilty on a count without there being unanimity about any one piece of evidence, the jurors disagreeing among themselves as to the facts in which Dr Agbim had made a false claim, although for differing reasons they were all agreed that he had.

At the trial, the defence counsel had asked the judge to take special verdicts from the jury so that he would know what evidence the jury had accepted. The judge had rightly refused to do so. Mr Edwards did not challenge that decision, but he submitted that the judge should have asked the jury what evidence they had accepted. In the opinion of the court, judges should not try to find out why juries had decided as they had, save in special circumstances such as, for example, where a defendant to a charge of murder pleaded by way of defence both provocation and diminished responsibility and the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. The present was not a case in which questions should have been asked by the judge.

When a jury retired to consider their verdict they had to decide whether on the evidence the charge or charges in the

indictment had been made out. Each juror had put on him by his oath the responsibility of giving a "true verdict according to the evidence". He could accept or reject what evidence he liked. He did not have to take the same view about the details of the evidence as every other juror. One juror might accept one piece of evidence, another might reject it. What they all had to be agreed about, if the verdict was unanimous, was that the prosecution had proved the charge or charges. The jury in the present case had said that they were sure. The court could see no reason for quashing any of the verdicts. The judge had not been at fault in omitting to direct the jury that in respect of each count they all had to be agreed about at least one of the pieces of evidence relied on by the prosecution to prove that the claim forms had not been correct.

In the case of counts 3 and 6, the prosecution had not had to prove both deceptions for the jury to be able to return a verdict of guilty.

The appeal against conviction was dismissed.

The case was a tragedy. A useful life, full of promise, had been ruined by greed. Dr Agbim was 46. He had been born and educated in Nigeria. He was an excellent doctor, much liked by his patients. Many people had written in the court on his behalf. But he had been dishonest in a manner that was important to the public. The NHS in its dealings with doctors trusted them to make honest and correct claims for expenses. The court owed it to the public to make a serious view of Dr Agbim's breach of trust, over a long period. The appeal against sentence must also be dismissed.

Solicitors: Simons, Muirhead & Allan; DFP.

Arrest by warrant: 'unnecessary fetter'

De Costa Small v Kirkpatrick

Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Wynn and Mr Justice Smith

[Judgments delivered October 19]

A police constable cannot be said to have made a lawful arrest in a civil matter on the strength of a warrant that is not in his possession at the time of the purported arrest but in a police station half a mile away. If the constable makes such arrest, he is not acting in the execution of his duty, and accordingly the Divisional Court allowed an appeal by Tyrone De Costa Small against conviction by Hertfordshire Justices at Hitchin of assaulting Constable Alan John Cook, of Hertford Constabulary, in the execution of his duty, contrary to section 51(1) of the Police Act, 1964, and of resisting the constable acting in the execution of his duty, contrary to section 51(3) of the Act. The convictions were quashed.

He had been committed to prison for a month on the first charge and fined £25 on the second. He had been given bail pending appeal.

Mr Nicholas Browne for the defendant; Mr Roger Henderson for the police respondent, Chief Superintendent John Kirkpatrick.

MR JUSTICE WYNN said that

Constable Cook was on duty with other officers in a police car parked in Market Square, Hitchin, early on Sunday morning, February 26, 1978. A fight broke out, and the defendant, charged from a crowd and went up to the police car. Constable Cook recognized him and was aware that a warrant of commitment was in existence against him. The warrant was for non-payment of fines and had been issued on February 22 but not executed. The warrant was at Hitchin police station.

The officer took the defendant's arm and said to him: "You are being nicked on warrant." The defendant struggled violently, punched him in the chest and kicked him in the legs. The justices had found that the defendant was told that he was being arrested on a warrant of commitment to prison for 160 days' imprisonment. At no time did he ask to see the warrant. He escaped, and was arrested some days later.

If the officer was acting in the execution of his duty the convictions must be quashed; if not, the convictions must be quashed.

For the defendant it was submitted that it was a question of fact and degree whether the warrant was in the officer's possession at the time of arrest; there was

possession if the warrant was in a police car 60 yards away, as in *R v Purdy* ([1975] QB 288), but not if the warrant was 850 yards away.

In *Purdy* Lord Justice Roskill, discussing the mischief at which the common rule that an arresting officer must be in possession of a warrant was aimed, said (p287-7): "Where a person is arrested on a warrant, it is essential that he should be able to know for what he is being arrested and whether he is being arrested for a matter of non-payment of a fine, arrears of maintenance, arrears under an affiliation order, or for something else; he can 'buy' his freedom from arrest by instant payment of the sum stated on the warrant. This therefore is the basic reason for the rule."

The warrant in *Purdy* was in the police car 60 yards away. Possession by the police officer did not cease to be possession merely because the warrant was not in his possession. The present case the most that could be said was that Constable Cook believed that the warrant was at the police station at Hitchin.

His Lordship saw no reason to depart from the principles laid down in *Purdy*, and the convictions should be quashed. Counsel for the defendant had

contended that if the warrant was not in the possession of the officer, then the matter was governed by section 102(4) of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, which provided that "A warrant to arrest a person charged with an offence may be executed by a constable without a warrant if it is not in his possession at the time; but the warrant shall on the arrest of the person arrested be shown to him as soon as practicable."

His Lordship did not think that the subsection applied. The Act had been referred to in *Purdy* but nowhere in that case was the question related to anything other than criminal proceedings.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, in a concurring judgment, said that the court would invite the attention of the Home Secretary to the possibility of amending legislation. It might be thought that the existing law produced an unnecessary fetter on the powers of the police. The idea that police officers should go around with a pocketful of warrants was perfectly sensible in the days of the village constable, but such an approach was quite hopeless today.

The appeal was allowed and the convictions were quashed. Solicitors: Hawkins & Co, Stevenage; Passingham & Hill, Hitchin.

Social Focus

Providing for exceptionally gifted children



In recent years priority has been given within the state education system to meeting the needs of the backward child. Now there is some evidence of a swing toward making provision at the other end of the ability range. All over the country educationists are working quickly to specialise to help children of exceptional ability.

Ironically, the abolition of grammar and direct grant schools and the rapid spread of comprehensive schools has been the greatest factor in stimulating the new awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of the gifted child.

It is now widely recognized that the 11-plus examination was an extremely blunt and inadequate instrument for assessing a child's academic potential. Many children were late developers whose gifts were not revealed until they were in their teens. Some children were highly gifted in one subject, but of average or below average ability in others. Some very bright children gave unconventionally brilliant answers to the multiple choice questions which were marked "wrong". Others were simply bored by what they saw as a silly test and refused to make a serious attempt at it.

Until a few years ago it was generally assumed that highly gifted children were finding their way into the grammar and direct grant schools and were being adequately provided for within those schools. But even grammar schools were geared to cater for the top 25 per cent of the ability range and not the highly gifted top two per cent.

It was not until comprehensive schools became widespread that serious thought was given to the need to make special provision for the exceptional needs of children across all ability ranges, including the gifted.

In 1965, when the then Labour Government first made the abolition of selection a central feature of its education policy, only eight per cent of pupils of secondary school age were in comprehensive schools. By 1977 the proportion had risen to 83 per cent. The next four years of Conservative rule was the period of fastest growth for the comprehensive schools and the proportion of children in those schools almost doubled. Now more than 80 per cent of secondary pupils are in comprehensives and only about six per cent are in the few remaining grammar schools.

Most of Britain's gifted children are therefore in non-selective schools, though some of the heter independent schools continue to make a significant contribution to the education of the nation's academic elite, at least for those whose parents can afford to pay. Fees at the top public schools average about £800 a year for day pupils and £2,000 for boarders and can go up to more than £3,000. About five per cent of pupils are in independent schools, though by no means all those schools are able to make suitable provision for gifted pupils or would even admit that they do.

The Government's decision two years ago to phase out the direct grant schools and now, from last month, to stop local authorities from paying for bright children to go to independent schools, has provided a new stimulus to the consideration of what provision needs to be made for academically gifted children. Local authorities may continue to pay for pupils gifted in music or dance to go to special schools.

Britain has never had elite state-supported schools for academically gifted children, along the lines, for example, of the special mathematics and physics boarding schools in the USSR. Both the 1967 Plowden Report on primary schools and the report last year on gifted children in comprehensive schools by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) called for the establishment of such "hot-house" schools, and in favour of the integration of gifted pupils within ordinary state schools, though with special provision made for them through the "enrichment" of their work.

"Enrichment" the HMI explained in their report, "is an activity which is a function of the teacher's flexibility, sensitivity to individual needs, mastery of subject area and sense of timing. It is therefore difficult to find the appropriate kind of enrichment in text books or other forms of commercially prepared curricular material. It is easy to underestimate a teacher's skill and capacity for extending pupils."

The HMI expressed strong reservations about allowing the extremely gifted child to jump a year at school; while academically ahead of his peers, the child was often not emotionally or physically mature enough to mix happily with older children. On the other hand, putting a child into a higher class for some subjects was a useful form of provision for children with specific gifts, they suggested.

On the question of whether children should be divided into different classes according to their different abilities, or whether the bright, average and slow learners should all be taught together, the HMI found that as far as the gifted are concerned, there was little evidence to suggest that one form of grouping was more helpful than another: no form of class grouping was in itself adequate provision for gifted pupils, they say.

Mixed ability teaching is often blamed for having contributed to the alleged decline in standards in state schools and is clearly seen by many as the enemy of the bright child. Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Opposition spokesman on Education, has just called for an end to all mixed-ability teaching, save in exceptional circumstances. Mixed-ability teaching is in fact far less widespread than is commonly supposed. Only two per cent of comprehensive schools have mixed-ability classes for most subjects for pupils up to the age

of 16, and less than a quarter have mixed-ability classes for more than the first three years (up to the age of 14).

The HMI's report, published in August last year, provoked widespread interest and caused further heart-searching among local education authorities. It was followed last November by the first government-sponsored national conference on gifted children, which was organized jointly by the Department of Education and Science and the National Association of Inspectors and Education Advisers, representing the local government inspectors.

Members of the press were invited and the conference received no publicity. It was typical of the quiet, unobtrusive way in which the Government is supporting a variety of projects concerned with the gifted. Mrs Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has come on record as saying that special provision should be made within comprehensive schools for the gifted, but on the whole she tends to keep rather quiet about it, no doubt realizing that singling out the gifted for special attention would not go down well with some of the left wing members of the Labour Party.

Last November's conference revealed an astonishing array of projects and programmes for the gifted, most of which had either recently been put into operation or were still being planned.

One of the most advanced is that which Surrey has been operating and refining over the past two years. The county has developed a highly sophisticated three-stage procedure for identifying gifted children, involving teachers, parents, educational psychologists and inspectors, and for then placing the child in a school best suited to his or her particular gifts.

From among 12,000 12-year-olds in the county, head teachers put forward 250 names of pupils whom they believed were exceptionally gifted in some way. Of those, 57 were finally assessed as having exceptional needs, including 29 who were gifted in academic subjects and 31 who were gifted in music or dance. All but four of the academically gifted were found suitable places within the county's comprehensive schools, where a careful eye will continue to be kept on them and provision made to "enrich" their work in various ways.

Much interest is being shown in the "bank" of teaching materials and audio-visual aids for gifted children which Surrey is developing both with commercially-produced materials like "Lingua-phon" records and film strip tapes of Sir Kenneth Clark's "Western Civilization" television series, and with its own home-produced low-cost video-tapes.

The subject matter ranges from navigation, aeronautics and Latin in home education, woodwork and drama. All the materials are designed to be used by one or two gifted children on their own with minimum assistance from a teacher. One 14-year-old recently got a grade A on his 0 level French after using the "lingua-phon" records at the county's resource centre.

One of the most ambitious projects for the gifted is the £200,000 pilot scheme recently announced by Nottinghamshire. It involves the employment of 22 additional peripatetic specialist teachers to provide advanced classes for gifted children within school hours and also possibly after school and at weekends in mathematics, English, science, modern languages, design, history and geography. Educational psychologists are to be appointed to help teachers identify gifted children and a resources centre may be developed. The pilot scheme will be restricted to secondary schools catering

for about 4,000 children in only one area of the county.

Several authorities already provide special classes for the gifted, sometimes in conjunction with the local polytechnic college or university. One of the longest running schemes is a weekly afternoon course for gifted 11-13 year olds at Bristol schools, which was set up eight years ago by Dr J. Wilks, senior lecturer in the school of education, Bristol University.

The children, who this year number 32 work individually or in small groups with post-graduate students who are training to become teachers, on topics which are stimulating and mentally stretching and which would not normally be provided by the school, such as architecture, geochronology, campanology, and computing. The programme is designed as much to help the student-teachers become more aware of the needs of the gifted as to help the children themselves.

Many authorities are trying to refine their techniques for identifying gifted children. While an IQ of 140 or more is generally taken as an indication of giftedness, it is only one of the signals. Devon last year produced a 50-page guide for teachers to help them "find the gifted child." It was the product of a one-year study by a working party on the gifted chaired by the chief education officer.

A working party in Hertfordshire has just completed its report on the identification of and provision for the gifted in maintained schools. Ealing is experimenting with peripatetic teachers. Essex and Somerset have both recently appointed full-time teacher-advisers for the gifted. Other projects are going on in Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Avon, Birmingham, Dorset, the 10's of Wiltshire, Lancashire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Doncaster and Warwick.

The National Association for Gifted Children, which was set up 12 years ago runs Saturday classes for gifted children in a wide range of creative and intellectual subjects in its 43 branches, including chess, art, mineralogy and debating. It is a small grant from the Government, 1975, it organized the first world conference on gifted children, which was held in London. The third world conference is due to take place in Jerusalem next year.

The Schools Council, which is jointly financed by the Government and the TV authorities, gave a £35,000 grant in 1975 to Dr Eric Ogilvie, principal of Northampton College of Education, for a two-year project to develop learning materials for gifted children from eight to 11 years.

The Schools Council has now finished editing Dr Ogilvie's work, which covers four subject areas—mathematics, environmental science, humanities and expressive arts, and they are due to be published next spring. However, it is certain whether there will be any demand for the materials which are expensive and are designed for the top per cent of the ability range rather than the top two per cent.

On the teacher-training front, the Department of Education and Science, been running one-week in-service residential courses on the gifted and on exceptional categories of children for about six years. A few initial test training courses are now including a material of the gifted.

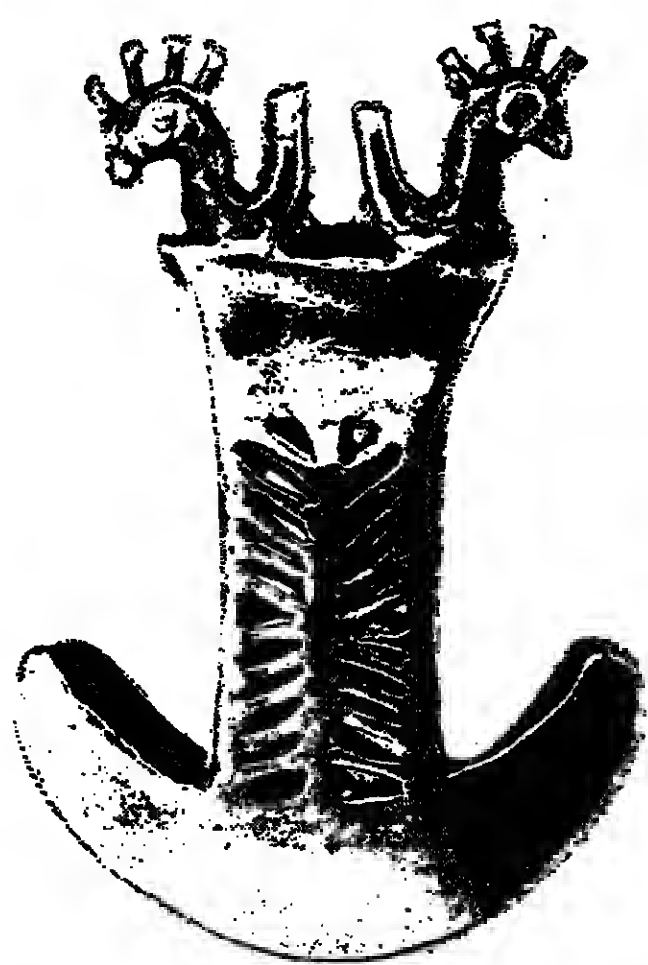
It is clear that much more is being done in education to meet the needs of gifted children. The situation is, in many ways, better than it was five years ago, but provision for the gifted is fairly limited, very patchy, relatively uncoordinated, and largely exploratory.

Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

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A problem that will not go away

Teenage sex is one of the many subjects on which middle-ground opinions are scarcely audible for the strident clamour of extremists at both ends of the spectrum. The facts show there is cause for concern. In the mid-1960s only 6 per cent of 15-year-old boys and 2 per cent of 15-year-old girls were sexually experienced. In the mid-1970s those proportions had risen to 26 per cent for boys and 12 per cent for girls. The number of abortions in girls aged 15 and under has risen from 9,000 in 1968 to 28,000 last year.

Why so many more teenage girls are becoming pregnant is less clear. One factor is their earlier maturity. Each decade this century the average age at which girls have begun men-

struation has dropped by about one year, and is now 13. There is usually a delay of a year or two before girls become fertile, but there can be no doubt that the proportion of 15-year-olds physically capable of pregnancy is now higher than ever before.

Yet, says Dilys Cossey in *Safe Sex for Teenagers* (Brook Advisory Centres, 50p), most area health authorities have given little priority to birth control clinics for young people. The Brook's own centres are well known to offer both counselling and contraceptive advice to less than 16, but they cannot cover the whole country.

Local health authorities that have set up clinics for young people have sometimes had to face vociferous criticism. When

the community physician in Doncaster opened a weekly clinic the *Daily Express* front page headline "Child Sex Clinic Shock" and the *Sun* referred to it as the "gynskip pill clinic"—though the *Daily Mail* recognized that "in an unhappy choice between two evils contraception is preferable to pregnancy for a 12-year-old."

Unwanted pregnancy is always distressing and its outcome may be disastrous for both mother and child: and the younger the mother the worse the problems tend to be. Why is it, then, that contraceptive clinics for teenagers arouse so much moral outrage?

Their opponents seem to assume that the existence of such clinics will encourage teenagers in sexual experimentation

—though there is no evidence to support that belief. In we know very little of reasons behind the increase in teenage sex, but with 30 million more teenagers being born at 30,000 a year there is surely on the opponents' case rather than the way round. The Brook have found that young people provided specially for them there are far too few can Teenage sexuality will not away if we ignore it: it will continue to exact a heavy toll from society so long as the vision of contraception is as being in some way repulsive.

Dr Tony St Medical Correspondent

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No. 6 (Rule 23)

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Men with such courage deserve to be heard

Yet another bloodstained irony has emerged from the graveyards of South-East Asia: the struggle between Vietnam and Cambodia, rival clients of rival communist empires, has led to still more tyranny in both countries, and in still more suffering for their peoples. There is, of course, a certain amount of gallows-humour to be extracted from the sight of the Soviet Union's leaders becoming judgmental at communist atrocities in Cambodia and the rulers of China trying to portray their bloody puppet as an innocent victim of Vietnamese aggression, but it is unlikely that the humour is fully appreciated in the concentration camps of Vietnam or the corpse-strewn squares of the cities of Cambodia. (Though it would be interesting to hear how Mr. Neville Maxwell, say, or another of those who droll and fawn over China without the smallest apparent qualms, might square their presentation of Chinese communism as a new and higher order of civilization with China's support for a Cambodian regime that has so far killed roughly a seventh of the country's population and is by no means finished yet.)

I have said my say about Cambodia recently in wish to return to the subject for the moment, but I have news from Vietnam that not only contrasts sharply with the fashionably uncritical slop we are now hearing from the Western partisans of Vietnamese "liberation", but suggests that those of us who (without special prophetic powers) forecast what kind of terror would follow the engulfing of South Vietnam fell some way short of the reality.

Earlier this year, two remarkable messages reached the West, brought out of Vietnam by a man who had managed to escape from the vast prison that that country has become. One is the text of a statement read out in front of Saigon Cathedral last August by a group of eight Vietnamese, of whom six took part in the public reading. For this, of course, they were arrested and imprisoned while in prison they passed it on to other prisoners, naturally, primarily to communist Vietnam are denied writing materials) to a fellow-prisoner, Mr. Donat Vau Toai, who learnt it by heart, and, after being released and escaping from Vietnam, wrote it down and brought it with him to France, whence he received a copy. Before I quote from it, I must say a word about the eight signatories: almost all of them were active opponents of the authoritarian regimes in South Vietnam during the war, some being imprisoned for their activities (one even being banished to North Vietnam). But, as I have so often remarked, those who oppose undemocratic actions by right-wing regimes in the name of democracy rather than of communism are the enemies that communism most fears. And rightly: if a man was prepared to suffer for his democratic beliefs because these led him to oppose the governments of Diem or Thieu, how much more intensely would he oppose the far more brutal rule of victorious communism.

With courage, then, of an order we can hardly grasp, the six heroes signed out the steps of Saigon Cathedral and read out their protest before being dragged away.

They stood on the steps of Saigon Cathedral and read out their protest before being dragged away

Saigon Cathedral and read out their protest, or as much of it as they could get through before they were dragged away to prison. They began with a statement of the point on which they take their stand:

We, with what remains of our falling strength, with what remains of our mutilated spirits, resolve to struggle non-violently for the respect of Human Rights in Viet Nam. We have chosen non-violence, as it is the only way of avoiding the bloodshed and sacrifice of a people martyred relentlessly over the past decades.

Then the signatories appeal to the peasants and workers of the world:

Look at your brothers in Viet Nam. The Vietnamese peasant labourer in the sweltering heat of the sun, at the mercy of nature, only to find his harvest confiscated in the name of bulging a so-called "socialism". The water buffalo, after ploughing the plough all day, is allowed a few moments rest. The Vietnamese peasant, after toiling all day in the rice fields, is forced to spend his rare moments of leisure undergoing indoctrination lessons and senseless discussion. Imagine the working conditions of the Vietnamese labourer. Forced to work all the month long without hope to escape from the vast prison that that country has become. One is the text of a statement read out in front of Saigon Cathedral last August by a group of eight Vietnamese, of whom six took part in the public reading. For this, of course, they were arrested and imprisoned while in prison they passed it on to other prisoners, naturally, primarily to communist Vietnam are denied writing materials) to a fellow-prisoner, Mr. Donat Vau Toai, who learnt it by heart, and, after being released and escaping from Vietnam, wrote it down and brought it with him to France, whence he received a copy. Before I quote from it, I must say a word about the eight signatories: almost all of them were active opponents of the authoritarian regimes in South Vietnam during the war, some being imprisoned for their activities (one even being banished to North Vietnam). But, as I have so often remarked, those who oppose undemocratic actions by right-wing regimes in the name of democracy rather than of communism are the enemies that communism most fears. And rightly: if a man was prepared to suffer for his democratic beliefs because these led him to oppose the governments of Diem or Thieu, how much more intensely would he oppose the far more brutal rule of victorious communism.

Workers and peasants forced to work unpaid during their leisure hours for fear that their families' rice ration will be cut and they die of hunger. The mercy of nature, only to find his harvest confiscated in the name of bulging a so-called "socialism". The water buffalo, after ploughing the plough all day, is allowed a few moments rest. The Vietnamese peasant, after toiling all day in the rice fields, is forced to spend his rare moments of leisure undergoing indoctrination lessons and senseless discussion. Imagine the working conditions of the Vietnamese labourer. Forced to work all the month long without hope to escape from the vast prison that that country has become. One is the text of a statement read out in front of Saigon Cathedral last August by a group of eight Vietnamese, of whom six took part in the public reading. For this, of course, they were arrested and imprisoned while in prison they passed it on to other prisoners, naturally, primarily to communist Vietnam are denied writing materials) to a fellow-prisoner, Mr. Donat Vau Toai, who learnt it by heart, and, after being released and escaping from Vietnam, wrote it down and brought it with him to France, whence he received a copy. Before I quote from it, I must say a word about the eight signatories: almost all of them were active opponents of the authoritarian regimes in South Vietnam during the war, some being imprisoned for their activities (one even being banished to North Vietnam). But, as I have so often remarked, those who oppose undemocratic actions by right-wing regimes in the name of democracy rather than of communism are the enemies that communism most fears. And rightly: if a man was prepared to suffer for his democratic beliefs because these led him to oppose the governments of Diem or Thieu, how much more intensely would he oppose the far more brutal rule of victorious communism.

And this moving cry from a suffering people concludes with these words:

Every day that passes is one more day of torture and suffering for millions of Vietnamese. They live in waiting for the victory and action of humanists all over the world.

They may have to wait some time. The other document, which reached the West at the same time, though it was drawn up somewhat later, is the testament of some 350 men and women who were all in Vietnamese prisons or concentration camps when they signed it; some had been held since the fall of South Vietnam, some had been tortured, in what reprints they faced when their smuggled message was published outside. Yet no fewer than 49 out of the total attached their real names.

This document gives some of the facts that made the other one so necessary: despite the already impressive number of prisoners left by Thieu Government, the existence of which at one time was severely condemned by international opinion, the Communist Government can no longer find enough room to incarcerate their numerous prisoners. Apart from the concentration camps, the Police has had to build up a network of schools, hospitals, office buildings and even orphanages into prisons. Such has been the case with Hanoi, Dalat, Builing (in central Saigon), Long Thanh Orphanage. The prison system of the former Government (the object of vigorous condemnation and severe protest by international opinion) has been replaced by another system which is more subtle and more planned. All communication between the prisoner and his family is absolutely forbidden, even by letter. Thus, the family of the prisoner, totally ignorant of the prisoner's fate, is plunged into unbearable anguish, and in the face of these humiliating discriminatory measures, is forced to keep silent for fear that the prisoner, held in a kind of hostage, could be murdered at any moment without their knowledge.

Nor is that all: it must be stressed that living conditions in prisons are utterly inhuman. For example, at Chi Hoa Prison, the official prison of Saigon, nearly 8,000 persons were detained under the former Government and that same prison is stuffed with nearly 40,000 persons. Often prisoners die of hunger, of lack of air, under torture or by suicide. Among these deaths can be cited: Father Hoang Quynh, 80 years old, President of the High Council of Religion in Viet Nam; the writer Duynh Anh; etc. . . . Even today we are ignorant of the fate of Tran Thuan, President of the Anti-Corruption Movement under the Thieu Government; the venerable Thuan Tan, official representative of An Quang Pagoda, and Gia Dinh District; the lawyer Tran Dang San, President of the Movement of Human Rights in Viet Nam; the socialist Nguyen Hai Cui. All were gravely ill and deprived of medication.

But those two documents reflect only a small part of the agony of communist Vietnam. Exile and refugee organizations in Europe have been collecting information about conditions there since soon after South Vietnam fell, and it is a horrifying catalogue that they have compiled, offering a grim corroboration of the must have been hearing about the admirable society the communists are building upon the ruin. The total number of prisoners in Vietnam's hideously overcrowded prisons and camps is impossible to estimate exactly; at one point the Government announced that there were 400,000, but now claims that there are 30,000 left, the rest having been "reeducated". But the estimate of Que Me (the Vietnamese Communist Human Rights) is that as many as 800,000 men, women and children are still deprived of their liberty. And tomorrow I shall say something about conditions in which they live, and of their fate.

C Times Newspapers Ltd, 1978. (To be concluded)

His presence and style place him apart from any recent Pontiff

A Pope perfect for the part

ROME There is nothing very dashing about cardinals: as a rule not about Popes either, for that matter. But this Polish Pope shows, such affection, such consideration for his predominantly elderly electors as they came, one by one, to be embraced by him at his investiture on Sunday that they might, with no great stretch of the imagination, have been transformed into knights awaiting a kiss from King Arthur before setting off on another legendary venture.

They may well have felt the same. And with every reason. They have suddenly given the Roman Church a comparatively young leader from Europe's most romantic country which actually invests the armoured cavalier. His physical presence and assurance, like his sometimes disturbingly distinct from the crowds, place him apart from any recent pontiff. Looking back over the line, the last Pope, John Paul I, reigned only a month but that was long enough to show that he could attract the world's sympathy by his simple ways yet could never have moved with anything like assurance in the Papal Palace and the Curial corridors.

They were, however, the special preserve of Paul VI who spent most of his life in the end about the palace. His finer side emerged in private, or in his writings, many of which improve constantly on reading. Publicly he gave a spiritualist impression until practically the end of his life when he suddenly aroused affection.

He had had to follow John XXIII who performed the miracle of showing that goodness combined with shrewdness, even in a man too old at his election and soon to be too sick to plan a reign, could exalt the Papacy to heights totally unexpected in contemporary affairs.

Before John's election, Pius XII had spent his last years as practically a recluse and such appearances as he made gave an impression of fragility. The new Pope's spirituality seems to add to his formidable physical presence. He behaves as though he knows exactly what he is doing. He reads his prepared texts without improvising like John Paul I, but his pause and his moments for reflection and his sudden emphasis on a crucial phrase say more than do just the words.

When he declared that Christ came to establish "a kingdom of priests", the pause and repetition have time for a vocal underlining of the word, for applause and then, with a hand raised to stop the clapping, completion of the phrase. The fact that he notices so clearly what he does is a sign of the fascination with which one follows his actions. It can be said that it is the actor in him, the poet in him—he has been both—but what really is so impressive to the common man is the confidence which he brings to everything he does. He can be disconcerting. Sometimes the enthusiasm appears almost too great. One fears that he might be mobbed. Doubts begin to return, even if to cast aside doubts. Not doubts about what he is saying, but about what he is doing; it is so splendidly, with such outstanding gifts, he is not inevitably expanding the whole of the Papacy within the framework of the Church when the bishops of the world, whom he were expected to bring a more of more autonomy from the centre. The less one may be that only

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Pope John Paul II: such affection

a Pope with the intellectual powers and conviction to dominate would be strong enough to encourage a process of decentralization. Certainly outside the Church's framework, his influence is already proving great. His electors say that they agreed on his candidature because he was the right man and only, as a secondary consideration, did they study the issue of whether the political repercussions would be acceptable. The world is inclined to reverse the order of priorities, seeking to assess what the consequences will be of this dramatic idea of turning to Europe for the first non-Italian Pope since the sixteenth century.

One interpretation is that the Church, with its culture still based westward, is reasserting its civilizational role in the face of the West and, by obvious implication, countering Russian influence there as an alien force.

His closest supporters give a still higher evaluation of what they have done. They believe that the Pope's experience of living under communism will have proved him with the right touch to face any angry reactions that may come from the East. But in general they see the long-term consequence as an enforced modification of communist policy towards the Church and its requirements. That is not all.

They see the Church under John Paul II emerging as the leading force in international affairs on the road which will bring humanity away from nationalistic wars. The election was only possible because recent Popes, and Paul VI in particular, had internationalized the sacred College of Cardinals and sharply diminished Italian influence in the Curia itself.

Now was the time, they argue, for the election of a Pope who would personally represent this broadening of the Church's horizons. At the same time they wanted a deeply spiritual man who was also capable of supervising the Church's central machinery, while able as well to make his mark with the masses.

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fateful developments. The first is his choice of officials to help him. It is expected that Cardinal Villot, the French cardinal who was Paul VI's Secretary of State and reconfirmed by the last Pope, will now be able to carry out his intention of retiring.

His successor is expected to be an Italian but, apart from references to the long curial career of Monsignor Agostino Casaroli and his identification with Vatican's eastern policy, no very likely candidates have been named.

The same can be said of the Italian hierarchy. History may inexorably take its course but one fact is likely to mark the last Conclave is that the Italians actually lost the Papacy because of differences among themselves. Sooner or later the Pope is going to be faced with the Italian problem. It is Titania of Italy as well as Rome's Bishop. The National Episcopal conference is due in May and a new chairman next spring and this—unlike the situation in any other country—is a Papal appointment. Some of the bishops fear that his hand will be less flexible than the final Italian variety they have been used to for four centuries. They now have a Pope who knows their country well, but from outside, and will certainly not be distracted for long by purely Italian considerations: from the overwhelming importance he places on the country's capital as Peter See. "How could one not tremble," he said at his investiture, "before the greatness of this call and before the universal mission of this office?" After the scale of his first appearances, one can only add: who indeed?

Peter Nichols

China: showing a new face to the business world

Lord Roll has visited China with 16 prominent industrialists, a trip organized—as was a similar visit last year—by Business Perspectives and The Times.

Eleven months is a long time between trips to present-day China. Last November, I had the privilege of leading a mission of 20 eminent British industrialists, most of them, like me, on their first visit to the People's Republic of China. I have just completed a rather longer visit with a slightly smaller, but equally important group.

The outward changes in China are impressive enough, but the change in attitude is very striking indeed. There are many more buses, trucks and passenger vehicles on the roads; and with the literally millions of bicycles, Peking, Shanghai, Canton and many smaller cities are beginning to experience serious traffic problems. There are many more consumer goods in the shops, radios are plentiful and even modern cameras quite numerous.

The number of visitors—trade delegations as well as tourists—has increased greatly and has created a serious accommodation problem. New hotels are planned (it is said that discussions are also going on with foreign hotel groups), and the Chinese Council for the Promotion of International Trade is having to cope with the formidable task of housing foreign delegations and arranging their programmes. There are discussions on increased air links; a twice daily Canton-Hong Kong service has already started and a Shanghai-Hong Kong one is also contemplated. A hovercraft link between Hong Kong and Canton is said to be under discussion. But far more significant are the changes in the atmosphere in which the discussions are

now taking place. Last year we always had a lengthy historical introduction from ministers and trade officials, ending up with the story of the delinquencies of the "Gang of Four" and the terrible legacy they had left behind. This time, they were more direct, and the introduction was a discussion with a Vice-Minister of Finance on a number of topics including incomes policy. He mentioned as something totally incredible that the "Gang of Four" believed in uniform wages! It is quite clear that, at the centre at least, the impression is one of a regime that has thoroughly consolidated its position.

Our own talks got down to business very quickly. As a result at least one contract was concluded; the news of the signing of another which had already been under negotiation came through while we were there; and a number of studies and surveys were initiated which will be followed up in visits by technical experts. Appointments for the whole group, for subgroups or for individuals, were arranged at short notice, despite the great pressure of business. A mountaineering member of our group even had a talk with the two Chinese who had reached the top of Mount Everest. A most illuminating discussion about the problems of the Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade responsible for trade policy brought much greater detail into the list of Chinese import priorities, with coal, oil, transportation equipment, generally (including railways), development of ferrous and non-ferrous metal industries, construction material, petrochemical and fertilizer industries heading the list.

The emphasis is even stronger than before on advanced technology and on the Chinese developing their own production by their own means, rather than by importing products. But the latter are not excluded, particularly where the need for the end use is urgent and domestic production cannot be developed for some years. With the emphasis on speeding up the industrial programme for the next few years and the consequent importance of quickly expanding agricultural output, agricultural machinery is a case in point. Even imports of some consumer goods, virtually excluded last year, are no longer taboo. The Vice-Minister also strongly emphasized defence industries. In this connexion it is important to note that in a final session with Vice-Premier Ku Mu, in the course of a very wide-ranging discussion, the trade agreement with Japan and the contracts concluded—very quickly, apparently—with West Germany were strongly highlighted, as examples to be followed; and the agreement with the European Community was said to provide an excellent basis for the development of trade relations. Joint offers in certain areas by a group of Community firms would be considered. The Vice-Minister also confirmed that China would be prepared to see some problems of the group of firms open representative offices in Peking. China's need to export was stressed and the application of anti-dumping measures were criticized.

Most striking of all perhaps, is the much greater flexibility regarding methods of trading and of financing imports. This came out very clearly in talks with the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Finance and with the Bank of China. Agreement was reached on the terms of a new form of export credit/parallel

deposit scheme which had been under discussion since shortly after our last visit. In addition, discussions were started on possible financing independent of particular exports.

Even government-to-government loans were mentioned, though it was made clear that no decision to accept these had been taken. What we were told was "you are of course free to make proposals". There was a hint that in some particular situations, something approaching joint ventures might be considered. In short, the pace has quickened enormously even to the past two or three months. Certainly, compared with last year, the role played by international relations in the "four modernizations" (agriculture, industry, defence and science and technology) from being a somewhat abstract concept has become an operational reality possessing a tremendous momentum.

There can be no doubt that this tendency will continue and will accelerate. It is of great significance that there is a concurrent theoretical trend as regards the domestic economy. Professor Yu Kwang-Yuan, Vice-Chairman of the State Commission on Science and Technology and also Vice-Chairman of the Academy of Social Science, with whom I had discussed last year some problems of planning, this time drew my attention to an article which had appeared in *The People's Daily* while we were there, written by the Chairman of the Academy, the distinguished economist, Hu Chiao-Ma.

Its theme was that a socialist system could not "automatically" guarantee that our economy will develop at a high speed. "It is erroneous to think that the will of society, of a government or of superiors can take the place of economic law or that this law can change to

accommodate political needs." Throughout the article the emphasis is on management, on enterprise, on a greater role for the banks, and on restricting "purely administrative means of management". I was, therefore, not surprised when the manager of one factory whom we discussed the present system—under which all capital for investment is provided by the State but all surplus of sales proceeds over costs is handed over to the State—remarked: "Now we have no control over our profits; perhaps in future we will."

This is not the moment to speculate on what this will mean for China's future. It is, however, important as a further proof that we can completely accept the declaration of the Chinese authorities of their readiness to trade with Britain on a scale several times—even 10 or 20 times—the present. It is up to us to make the most of these great possibilities. This does not, however, mean that we are in for an easy time. The Chinese are good traders and know how to drive a hard bargain. But, significantly, one Vice-Minister said that in order to redress their present heavy dependence on Japan, they would deal with us "if the terms are similar". The world is rushing in and not surprisingly the emphasis is on competitiveness. Having invited all the advanced industrialized countries to make us offers, the Chinese have put themselves in an excellent position to make the best bargain.

However, I do not believe that they want us to indulge in cut-throat competition. They know that one cannot do business for nothing. It is up to us to take some risks, to spend some seed money, and to do the best negotiating we can. The opportunities are all there.

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The picture on the label of The Buchanan Blend is that of James Buchanan, the man who first put it on the market in 1864.

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THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME



Who really cares about our roots?

The future of London's past is in jeopardy. Unless somebody in the Government shows a flicker of interest in our archaeological heritage, we are going to lose our last chance to piece together the jigsaw of early London. In the five years of its existence the Department of Urban Archaeology has rescued much of Londonium from oblivion, in particular the waterfront of the first port, the palimpsest of Roman, Saxon and medieval topography. Because of a change of policy by the Manpower Services Commission the archaeologists have lost a third of their annual budget of a third of a million pounds. Unless something is done to replace it, by the end of the year the Department of Urban Archaeology will lose half its staff of 82, almost all archaeology graduates, who are paid under the job creation scheme.

Rescue archaeology cannot wait. At the rate that development of the City is ripping out the past, in 20 years the remains of 2,000 years of London life will be lost for ever. Brian Hobbie, the chief urban archaeologist, reckons that on his reduced budget he will be able to put only a token presence in the trenches next year. Most of his diggers will be processing what they have already dug. He says: "All the signs are that national and

local government consider our historic archaeological archive of little importance."

The 330 acres of walled city from one of the most important and mysterious archaeological sites in the world. The vanishing past matters. A philistine government that lets it go deserves no future.

Robert Mark, please note. New police instructions for London. The police constable will be expected to possess a knowledge also of the inhabitants of each house in his beat. He will be able to see every room in his beat at least once in 10 minutes or quarter of an hour. And this he will be expected to do, so that any person requiring assistance, by remaining in the same spot for that length of time, must certainly meet constable. The date? 1829. Admittedly we have telephones now, but how long would you have to wait in a London street these days before a policeman came along?

Mums' soft-shoe shuffle

Some jog. Others diet. Others do painful press-ups on the bedroom floor. Others simply let it all pass. A troupe of youngish to middle-aged London mothers have more fun kicking their legs above their heads, swivelling their pelvises across the boards, adopting wildly improper postures, and dancing with abandon and fantasies of *Chorus Line*.

They met because their children went to the same

swimming class. They asked Suzanne France, a professional teacher of dancing, to put together a course for them. Every Tuesday she has them wearing leotards and their husbands, boaters and soft-soled-shuffling about the Jubilee Sports Hall, Niburn. Inside every housewife is a Pina Bausch, tapping her toes to get out.

Suzanne France says: "They wanted to keep fit, but they did not want to do boring exercises. They want to dance like their teenage daughters. They throw away middle age and their inhibitions and dance, dance, dance, some of them jolly well. There is a dance in the old dame yet."

Positions of trust

Question: which club has the most and grandest premises in England and Wales? Answer: The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. Of course, dumb. It also has the most members, having just recruited without fanfare its 750,000th. The biggest landowner in the United Kingdom also runs the biggest and most useful club.

The oak has grown gradually frayed by the years. It was founded in 1895. By the end of the year it had a hundred members, who were concerned among other matters about whether to accept the sea-cliff at Barmouth on behalf of the nation. Membership grew to 725 by the first war, when like civilization and much else, it fell sharply. By the end of the

1930s there were 7,100 members.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, president of the trust for the first forty years of the century expressed misgivings: "How can amateurs recruited by propaganda, many of whom will join for what they can give, have the same knowledge, the same dedication?"

What would the princess have made of the recruiting campaign that has increased the guardians of the national heritage from 226,200 in 1970 to three-quarters of a million yesterday? She ought to have judged that this was a fine example of the trust pulling itself up by its own bootstraps, which sounds an old-fashioned as well as a precarious activity.

When inflation took off, the trust was particularly vulnerable, because so much of its work is labour-intensive. The jealously independent lads decided not to run to the Government for subsidy. They disliked the thought of Treasury strings that are tied to Treasury help. "We looked hard at whether our salvation lay in our own hands."

They found two answers. First, they went into trade in a big way. They now have more than a hundred shops open at their properties. These and the mail order scheme that the trust runs at Christmas will make a



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A QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE

A single system of examination for children at sixteen-plus is desirable in principle but could be disastrous in practice. It would be obviously right if the country's educational system were thriving and secure in public confidence. When it has lost the confidence of parents, is shaken by structural upheavals and is widely believed to be failing to maintain standards, this additional change threatens to add to the confusion and mistrust. There are formidable practical obstacles to running the two existing exam systems into one without merely substituting new faults for old ones. Mrs Shirley Williams, who yesterday accepted almost all the main recommendations made by the Waddell committee this summer, was wise at last to reject their proposed time-scale until the Government could be fully satisfied that the difficulties can be surmounted.

It is merely an historical accident that two systems exist. The General Certificate of Education (GCE) is closely linked with the universities, cater for the top 20 per cent of the ability range, those who would in the past have expected to go to grammar schools. When new exams were set up in 1965 so that the next 40 per cent should have a certificate to show for their years at school, a university link seemed inappropriate, since few of the pupils concerned would be seeking higher education. The CSE boards have elected teacher majorities and strong local authority representation. The CSE has succeeded in the sense that many more children now leave school with some form of certificate. But they are often disillusioned to find that employers give the CSE no weight simply because it is not the GCE.

even though a grade one CSE is equivalent to a "C" pass at GCE.

Opinion in the educational world runs strongly in favour of eliminating this ghostly survival of the grammar school system, for some good reasons and some bad ones. The division corresponds to no objective gap in the range of ability among children. Individuals close to the borderline have to choose whether to go all-out for GCE and risk being left empty-handed if they fail, or working for two exams with different curriculums, set by different boards. This would happen wherever the boundary was drawn. A pupil who appears to be CSE material two years beforehand and is put in a class working on that curriculum cannot easily transfer if he gains ground later. Children capable of attempting O level are often dissuaded because the necessary small classes (a problem likely to grow as pupil numbers fall after 1980). The multiplicity of examining boards creates administrative and educational problems in schools, and has led to a situation where far too many exams exist with similar but marginally different significance.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to devise a paper in maths or French, for instance, which gives the ablest and the least able an equal chance to show what they are capable of. Practicality has always been the stumbling block. There is nothing to be gained by replacing a system unfair to a group in the middle with one that is equally unfair to as many pupils at the top and lower ends of the scale. Some teachers, it must be suspected, would prefer a single system just because it would be more likely to obscure the true range of

attainment among pupils and make comparisons with past standards more difficult. A single exam may seem to strengthen the case for mixed-ability teaching, a growing practice which in secondary schools appears to lead to neglect of children of high and low ability, except in the hands of exceptionally able teachers.

Since the Schools Council pointed out the advantages of mixed-ability teaching, much work has been done to find ways of getting over these problems. In several areas, GCE and CSE boards have cooperated in running joint exams as well as or instead of their normal ones. Some subjects were found to be more amenable to joint treatment than others. In some, like English Language, a single set of papers could probably be given to all candidates. In others, alternative questions or quite separate papers covering different parts of a single curriculum would be needed. The proposed seven-point grading corresponding to the seven grades in the existing systems above the CSE pass-mark would make comparison with past standards possible.

There is still much work to be done. Some of the experimental exams seem to have neglected the extremes of ability just as had been feared. There is no guarantee that schools will provide the separate instruction that will often be necessary for pupils aiming to tackle the more difficult papers. There is much public mistrust of the motives of teachers who seek a change that may make it harder for employers to assess the abilities of job applicants. The real danger at present is that amalgamating CSE and O levels would not strengthen the CSE, but destroy the system in which O levels are held.

Electing a union leader

From the General Secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

Like Sir Leonard Neel (October 18), I have been waiting to see my reply to Sir Geoffrey Howe's extraordinary long letter of September 28, but apparently my letter, which was sent to you on October 2, by express post, has mysteriously disappeared.

In view of the lapse of time, may I recall the original issue—the figures used by Howe in stating the size of the vote by which I was elected as General Secretary of my union and the proportion it represented of our membership at the time. Beneath the weaker of words to his role, it emerges that one figure by the size of my vote was a guess derived from somebody else's guess and the other—the size of our membership, a publicly available figure—was purely false. Although the distinction is subtle, it is important. I accept Howe's assurance that there was no wilful misrepresentation.

Space limitations (and your staff have asked me to be brief) prevents me from replying in detail to all the points raised by Howe and echoed by Neel, but I should like to deal with some of their points in general terms.

First on trade union democracy. I am elected under rules determined by my members and my opponents were defeated under those rules. The members have the power to change the rules. In my industrial and political expressions, I am governed by the decisions of a democratically elected Annual Congress and by my Executive Council. Were I to cease being representative of the membership as they express themselves through the democratic machinery which they have established, irrespective of whether I am elected until retirement age, I would soon find my position untenable.

Second, trade unions are governed by majority rule. As an element in the rule on trade unionism will show, majority rule (with any minority having rights to try to change majority decisions) is fundamental to the effective pursuit of collective bargaining and other objectives and the orderly running of a democratic government. It is an extra-union official must be completely familiar with this basic element of trade unionism.

Oddly enough, the concept of majority rule is accepted as a basic necessity of representative democracy in the running of the country. I am not alone in this. The Labour Party, which is a trade union, is no exception.

Which brings us to the question, of which Neel and Howe make much, of whether trade unions in terms of jobs and real wages really serve the best interests of their members. I am not a socialist, but I do not think that we do not, but we cannot. That is why he wants, in contradiction to his concern for trade union democracy, government and employers to have a say in "developing a new trade union rule." Obviously within the context of which *The Times* have suggested, I cannot deal with the question at length; but may I say that it is a sterile exercise to

try to apportion blame among governments, trade unions and employers for our present position.

The essential question over the next five years (and beyond) is not the one Howe poses at the end of his letter; the question is what balance can be struck between the apparently conflicting interests of government, trade unions and employers which will create a sound basis for the pursuit of the interests they have in common and whose realisation would be good for the country as a whole. It is reasonably clear that they do not have much to contribute to the answer.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BASNETT,
General and Municipal Workers' Union, Thorne House, Runcley Ridge, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

From Mr J. W. West

Sir, Many will share the concern of Mr Philip Muston (October 11) at the excessive power of the trade unions and at the danger of an extension of the powers of the General and Municipal Workers' Union. I share his concern at the harm to the nation of the inadequate, inconsistent and partisan policies of the trade union movement. Many will agree with him that there is a threat to parliamentary democracy, but not all will agree with him as to the nature and direction of that threat.

The Government has a voluntary pay policy which must mean that it offers those concerned the option either of acceptance or of rejection. The trade union movement has decided on rejection which is one of the two options offered. This cannot possibly be called a confrontation with the Government; nor, of course can it be regarded as frustrating the will of Parliament.

Of course, we all know that the truth of the matter is that the Government wishes its voluntary pay policy to be regarded as compulsory. But it has no power to make it compulsory. Only Parliament has the power to do that and Parliament has not done so. It has not even been asked to consider doing so, since the Government disavows that it is in a position to initiate such action. It would thereby impair its electoral chances.

It therefore tries to obtain the equivalent of statutory powers by extra-statutory means. It is the attempt to replace the law by the Government's decision on the basis of "What the Prime Minister wishes the law" which constitutes a grave implication for parliamentary democracy.

We are all under an obligation to obey the law. We are under no obligation whatsoever to obey the Government, which holds power at our pleasure. It is high time Parliament and people reassessed their authority. Liberties not defended become liberties lost.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. WEST,
La Vie Danet, Paimpont, 35380 Plélan-le-Grand, France.

Lord Boothby on Churchill

From Lady Soames

Sir, I cannot let Lord Boothby's letter, published by you today (October 23), with its insulting references to Sir John Colville, pass without comment.

Lord Boothby refers to the "comparatively brief period" during and after the War when Sir John was one of Sir Winston Churchill's Private Secretaries. Jack Colville was a member of Mr Neville Chamberlain's Private Office in 1940, when my Father was Prime Minister. The continuity of his service as Private Secretary was, it is true, interrupted for three years when he went off at his own urgent request to train as a pilot in the RAFVR. My Father greatly regretted his departure, while of course approving the reason for it. He had formed a high opinion of Jack Colville's professional capacity, and was anxious to have him back as soon as his tour of duty was completed.

After my Father's resignation in 1945, Jack Colville remained a close friend of both my parents; and on my Father becoming Prime Minister once more in 1951, he was appointed his Joint Principal Private Secretary, in which post he remained until my Father's final resignation in 1955.

But the close friendship already formed between my parents and Jack Colville and his wife was to continue undimmed during their lifetime. The Colvilles were frequent guests in my parents' house; my Father confided completely in Jack Colville's discretion and judgement, making him a Trustee of his own and our family's affairs, and an Executor of my Father's Will. He was with me during some of my most intimate and trusted friends.

Lord Boothby also states that Sir John Colville is "of no importance at all". I do not know by what

criteria Lord Boothby judges "importance". But as a close friend and witness of my Father's private and public life from 1940 until his death in 1965, he is, and will remain, among the most important sources of accurate information.

Lord Boothby's friendship with my Father dated from 1926, when he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to my Father, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer (until 1929). Thereafter they were colleagues in the fight to awaken Britain to the threat of Germany's growing power, and of our weakness. During that period, Mr Boothby, as he then was, came a good deal to Chartwell. But neither the postwar Chartwell visitors' book nor the Chequer book (1951-1955) bears his signature. I personally do not remember him coming to 28 Hyde Park Gate; but if he did, his visits were most infrequent.

Sir Robert Boothby (he was made a KBE on my Father's retirement in 1953) had political dealings with my Father after the War, chiefly on European Union, of which they both were protagonists. Indeed, Lord Boothby tells how he was recruited to the Committee for a United Europe by my Father.

As to the accusation that my Father conducted a "man-hunt" against Mr Boothby, as he then was in 1941 at the time of his resignation as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, it would not have been in my Father's nature to do so. And perhaps your readers, Sir, will recall that at that time Winston Churchill was engaged on a man-hunt of a somewhat larger proportion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MARY SOAMES,
Sir Albans Mansion, Kensington Court Place, W8, October 23.

An Amnesty appointment

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, Mr David Simpson, in his reply (October 18) to my letter, misses the point of my argument. By definition, all communists and Marxist-Leninists are hostile to the kind of free society in which an Amnesty International is active. International Communism exists and flourishes. They are committed to the destruction of such societies, and their explicit duty is to perorate such organizations and subvert them from within. What the British section of Amnesty International has done, by appointing David Simpson as a Vice-President of Research, is to make it easy for these objectives to be fulfilled.

It is rather as though the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were to invite some prominent dissident, such as Bukovsky or Solzhenitsyn, to join its Central Committee; or as if Hitler had invited a Zionist leader to join his immediate entourage.

If only one third of all individual prisoners of conscience adopted by AI are in communist or Marxist countries, as Mr Simpson declares, then it reflects both the closed nature of these societies and the imbalance of which I complained.

Cuba alone, for example, has more political prisoners than all other Latin American countries put together. I cannot but feel, reading your Amnesty International's devotion to attention to Cuban prisoners of conscience; but would be glad to be proved wrong.

Perhaps the only communist country which does not have a large population of political prisoners is Cambodia, where they are shot in order to instil that dissent is not statistically speaking, a prisoner of conscience.

Yours very truly,
BRIAN CROZIER,
112 Bridge Lane, Temple Fortune, NW11, October 20.

Primacy of the Pope

From the Reverend D. N. Samuel

The significance of the Archbishop of Canterbury's decision to attend the enthronement of the new Pope must be carefully weighed by members of the Church of England. It will undoubtedly be regarded as a sign of the esteem and honour in which the Papacy is now supposed to be held. (For him who says so he assembles). But it is also to be interpreted as a step towards the goal sketched out by the Agreed Statement on Authority in the Church: that in any future union of Churches the Papacy should be accorded a primacy of honour.

It is true that it must not be forgotten that the claim of the Papacy is not merely to a primacy of honour, but of jurisdiction over all Christians. The decree of Vatican I declared that the primacy of the Roman Pontiff is not a primacy of jurisdiction, but of "true and proper jurisdiction".

The claim to jurisdiction is distinctly a Papal claim, and the conciliar reforms of Vatican II did nothing to alter it. The decree on the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, which takes over where Vatican I left off, affirms: "... all this teaching (of Vatican I) about the institution, the perpetuity,

the force and reason for the sacred primacy of the Roman Pontiff, this sacred Synod again proposes to be firmly believed by all the faithful".

The rock of the Papal claim to jurisdiction and sovereignty is the split of the visible Church into East and West, Roman and Protestant, is now covered by a rising tide of ecumenism and euphoria generated by the mass media, but it is still there, and is none the less real because some do not see it and others choose to ignore it.

The present is not, therefore, the time for the leadership of the Church of England to ignore these unpleasant facts, but rather to face them. Nor is it the time for the Church of England to be departing from precedent when there is no indication of the Church of Rome doing the same.

It is surely the duty of those who are entrusted with the safety and integrity of the Church of England to insist that there can be no acknowledgement of the Papacy's claim to a primacy of honour until there is a change in the Papal claim to a primacy of jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID N. SAMUEL,
Protestant Reformation Society, East Ravendale Rectory, Grimsby, October 20.

Protecting people

From the Reverend Nick Earle

Sir, The reported agreement (October 18) of a former Metropolitan Police Commissioner that "the belief that the state can or even wishes to protect people effectively from burglary... should be abandoned" invites the response: what, then, is the function of government?

The first duty of institutions is to maintain what they establish—in the case of government, writ—and to establish only what they can maintain. Governments cannot create human life and in the last resort its sustenance and protection must be left to those who can.

But in striving to maintain themselves and their children, men may be expected to rely on that security both of territory and property which government alone can provide. This in a developed country, also requires currency which, in its turn, depends for protection on the state. Society may have other hierarchies of value, or it may have none at all. But no body of men and women claiming the title of government is worthy, in my judgment, of a vote which substantiates that claim unless it gives to the defence of the realm, the security of property and the stabilisation of the currency a higher priority than to any scheme of social welfare, however well conceived.

Yours faithfully,
NICK EARLE,
Readmaster's House, Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire.

Strangely, the annual rental and maintenance charge that such installations carry attracts VAT, and at the luxury rate of 12 per cent. Waving this tax is one way in which the government might help the police. They might go further and contribute to the cost of installation, as they now do with loft insulation.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. BOURNE,
Nuoton, Salisbury.

Army cadetships

From Mr Roderick Goldsworthy

Sir, Of 130 men awarded Army undergraduate cadetships and bursaries whose names are in today's *The Times*, 90 come from Headmasters' Conference schools. Why?

Other statistics are also revealing. Thirty-four of the 40 going to Oxford, Cambridge or Durham are from these schools, as are 60 of the 71 destined for cavalry or infantry. Three battalions of the Royal Green Jackets will acquire 11 officers from the universities by this method. Eight battalions of the Kings Division will get one; the Army itself might be able to correct this last anomaly.

It appears, sometimes that there is rather less opportunity for unmarried potential leaders or academics to shine than there was in the bad old days of the grammar schools.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK GOLDSWORTHY,
Houghton House, Houghton, Rye.

Unisex pronoun needed

From Lady Wootton CH

Sir, It is not true that some linguists expect applied his or her mind to making good use of the deficiencies of the English language, namely the lack of any sexually neutral (but not neuter) pronoun. Even in writing this letter I am obliged to say "his or her", and the growing contemporary emphasis on non-discrimination makes resort to this cumbersome formula increasingly frequent.

The common practice of using the plural "they" in this context, is linguistically improper, and the assumption that the masculine embraces the feminine is objectionable on other grounds. (A well-known university institution once asked for my opinion as to the influence which an applicant for a post with a distinctly female first name "would be likely to exercise as a man over his students".)

Already the (unsatisfactory because unpronounceable) "Ms" has not got into circulation to avoid marital discrimination.

Is not the need for a unisex pronoun a more urgent matter on which one of the articles which you publish from time to time on the development of our language might make constructive suggestions?

Yours, etc.
WOOTTON OF ABINGER,
House of Lords,

WORKING FOR A STERILE SUMMIT

It was confirmed in Damascus on Saturday that President Assad of Syria will pay a "working visit" to Baghdad this week. The object is to prepare the ground for the Arab summit conference which is to open in Baghdad on November 2, preceded by a foreign ministers' conference beginning next Monday.

The importance of these developments should not be underestimated. It now appears probable that there will be a summit conference at which Egypt will be absent but every other Arab state will be represented and in the capital of the Arab League, which (with Libya) has resolutely refused to consider even the theoretical possibility of a negotiated settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It appears moreover that there is now on both sides a serious intention to end the bitter feud between the rival Baath regimes of Baghdad and Damascus, which has been comparable in its intensity to that between Moscow and Peking, and has been for the past ten years almost the only unchanging feature in the Middle Eastern kaleidoscope.

Syria already gave clear indications of a desire to end the feud last year, after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Iraq at that time was not ready. She insisted that Syria explicitly repudiate Resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations Security Council, which provide for a peaceful settlement with Israel to be achieved by direct negotiations—a step the Iraqis well knew Syria was not prepared to take, as it would imply repudiation of the existing ceasefire with Israel and also foreclose Syria's option of regaining her lost territory by negotiation should favourable diplomatic circumstances arise.

Iraq's motive for this "principled" position was probably unwillingness to accept

membership of a front in which Syria would appear the natural leader. One may surmise that things look different to Baghdad now that the implications of President Sadat's peace initiative are clearer: Egypt has effectively destroyed President Assad's pretensions to dominate the Palestinian issue and deal with the United States from a position of strength, and thereby also his pretensions to hegemony over the whole of "greater Syria". Syria is left exposed, frightened, struggling desperately and clumsily to stabilize her Lebanese flank.

Yet Egypt has done this by a gesture which other Arabs find it impossible to follow, at any rate for the time being. The leadership of the Arab world is left vacant—and it is a position to which Baghdad, once the capital of Haroun al-Rashid, now that of the most populous Arab oil-producing state, must naturally feel itself entitled. Iraq, it seems, is going to try to make the "eastern front" a source of real military pressure on Israel, and to make itself the centre of an Arab front rejecting the Camp David agreements.

It would be a tragedy, particularly for them, if the Arabs agreed to follow that line, however understandable their dissatisfaction with the framework negotiated at Camp David for an overall (as opposed to Israeli-Egyptian) peace. For it is essentially the same negative, rejectionist line which has brought the Arabs so many defeats in the past and is thus responsible for their present unsatisfactory position. They should learn more from their enemies. The Zionists have always acted on the principle of accepting whatever was offered them even when (as in the case of the partition proposals in 1937 and 1947) they

considered it thoroughly inadequate, on the grounds that something is better than nothing and that no chance of improving one's position should be lost.

The Camp David framework provides such a chance to the Arabs. True, Israel does not commit herself to full withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights, or to eventual recognition of a Palestinian state. Her leaders even proclaim their continued determination to accept none of these things. But the concessions they have made to Egypt show that they can in certain circumstances, he brought to usay what they have once said. The direct stance in that case was direct negotiations, in a climate of commitment, to a peaceful solution, and with the active involvement of the United States at the highest level. The other Arabs, especially those whose interests are most directly involved, ought to consider whether this is not a road worth exploring for them too, as an alternative to the well-trodden and so far very stony road of rejection and confrontation.

It may be unfair to expect King Hussein to accept the role allotted to him at Camp David in negotiations to which he was not a party. It may be unfair to expect him to throw away the Arab respectability he has painfully earned by embarking alone on negotiations with Israel. But would it not be sensible to give him an Arab mandate to request a "Camp David" of his own, at which he would negotiate on behalf of the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular? It might not work, but it would surely be worth trying before the Arabs resign themselves to a new confrontation which is bound to be costly and is all too likely to end in yet another disaster.

NHS dispute

From Mr J. S. Eastwood

Sir, Your article on the Health Service strike (October 19) was remarkable for its restraint; Mr Drax's letter on the same page, for its absolute predictability.

It seems even more remarkable how little public debate there is about the justification, or lack of it, for this kind of strike. Surely a supposedly civilized country, it is in general intolerable that anyone should refuse treatment for the sick. It must be even more so for anyone to obstruct or interfere with their treatment.

The Health Service employees, however, they choose to represent their action cannot deny that it is deliberate, and that its direct consequence is to deprive the sick of treatment. They cannot, by any argument, deny that that deprivation is, even if they choose to say only partly their responsibility, because it is always the foreseeable consequence of their action.

Can such action be justified by the justice of its grievance? That may indeed be considerable and worthy of sympathy. But simply to

call the action "industrial" does not justify it. The fact that such action is legally permissible does not make it any more than breach of the law can be justified by showing that there are grounds for saying it is a bad law.

Nor can it be justified by saying that someone else's conduct, however unjust, has left no alternative but to strike. The alternatives are to continue to pursue the claim by other means, or to accept that it cannot be made good. These alternatives may be extremely hard to accept and may in themselves outrage a sense of justice, but can the justice of a claim for money outweigh the justice of a sick person's claim to treatment?

Any more than the justice of a hijacker's claim to political rights can outweigh the rights of innocent passengers to life and liberty? Of course there is a difference: the hijacker's action is also illegal; but the absence of legal sanctions does not make an action right.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. EASTWOOD,
20 Gipsy Lane, Kettering, Northamptonshire.

* Chicago boys' in Chile

From Mr Tim Congdon

Sir, As usual, Lord Kaldor is wrong. In his letter (October 18) he says that the conditions of "discrimination" in Chile "have made it" "easy... to keep wages down and thereby gradually bring inflation to an end".

Real wages in Chile rose by 29.2 per cent in the year to April, 1977, and 15.2 per cent in the year to April, 1978. The increase to April, 1977, was the highest ever recorded. However, income have only just caught up with their levels at the beginning of the 1970s. A massive fall occurred between the all-time peak in April, 1971, when an index compiled by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística stood at 122.1 (1970=100), and October, 1973, (the month of the military coup), when it was 34.0.

The explanation for high real wages in early 1971 is to be sought partly in buoyant copper prices at that time, and partly in price controls and government subsidies. These controls and subsidies disorganised the Chilean economy, leading inevitably to the disasters of 1973.

If Lord Kaldor visited Chile, he might revise his views about the consequences of its "dictatorship" for the ordinary people and also learn something about what needs to be done to create a successful economy.

Yours sincerely,
TIM CONGDON,
Cambridge Street, London, SW1, October 19.

Bail in Northern Ireland

From Mr Alastair D. W. Logan

Sir, The Legal Secretary of The Law Officers' Department (letter, October 3), takes me to task over my letter regarding bail in Northern Ireland. On the matter of High Court judges dealing with bail I stand corrected. As to the remainder of my letter I would comment as follows:

1. The Catholic and Protestant communities both regard the lengthy custodial remands as intolerable by remand.

2. If there is no policy decision by the DPP to oppose consideration of evidence by the calling of witnesses at committal for trial then the sooner this is made clear the better for lawyers. I have spoken to my Northern Ireland colleagues on such a policy decision. It would, incidentally, be interesting to note in how many cases consideration of evidence at committal proceedings has taken place since 1976.

3. There are about 160 men in H Block 6 Long Kesh Prison. These men are transferred there after serving about six or eight months on remand in the Crumlin Prison. For Paul, whose work is in relation to Northern Ireland, is internationally known, says Mass there every Sunday. He estimates that there are about 90 men in that block who have been on remand for more than one year, many of them teenagers. Of my own knowledge, apart from the case I referred to in my letter, I know of another case where five teenagers were in July 1977 were told in September 1978 that their case had been remanded indefinitely, no date was proposed to be fixed for trial in the foreseeable future.

4. A significant number of those who are remanded in custody do not recognize the court. Thus, the suggested delays in preparation of the defence could not apply in these cases, neither does the availability of counsel for the defence. As to availability of witnesses, pressures on courts and "other factors", these are almost entirely within the province of the Crown to remedy.

5. The system in Northern Ireland does not compare favourably with the system in this country, and I suggest that this country is a more appropriate yardstick.

6. The figures quoted by Mr Beckett would be more comprehensible if he could tell in how many of the 211 cases bail was not opposed by the Crown. Further, it would be interesting to know how many of the 211 cases are persons charged solely with membership of an illegal organization where the evidence is that at the time of arrest they were no longer members.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. W. LOGAN,
187 High Street, Guildford.

Sponsoring the arts

From Sir Robert Meyer, CH

Sir, I am an unashamed admirer of the Arts Council and of British Council, and I am sure that the Council, a buffer between politics and the arts. No other country has the sense or courage to follow our example and I say so whenever opportunity offers.

I am sure that others, beside myself, look upon the Council's Secretary General as a leader who, without ignoring commercial publicity should point to the social value of the arts as a means of life enhancement.

In music, my subject, the state grants annually about £15 million, the private sector £3 million. Believers in a mixed economy have the chance of proving the latter's value by increasing their support. If this means a sacrifice on the part of donors it will strengthen their case and public esteem.

Your obedient servant,
ROBERT MEYER,
22 Blomfield Street, EC2.

United Kingdom he would know that many local authorities have been involving their tenants more and more closely in management and in particular the Greater London Council has gone a very long way by encouraging the creation of tenant cooperatives to manage and subsequently part-own their flats.

I am sure the Director of the Greater London Secondary Boustion Association would be only too glad to assist Mr Steel rather than his having to go outside Great Britain for his knowledge.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY FINSEBERG,
House of Commons.

Involving council tenants

From Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, MP for Camden, Hampstead (Conservative)

Sir, Mr David Steel's article (October 19) on his visit to Eastern Europe holds one of the keys as to why the people of London have rejected Liberal MPs and Liberal GLC members.

He seems suddenly to have discovered from his visit that communal responsibility for council estates helps to prevent vandalism and suggests that Tory and Labour councillors should go to Romania to examine this phenomenon.

I suggest to Mr Steel that if he and his Party were to touch with civility, in the capital city of the

Strike at HMSO

From Mr F. H. Smith

Sir, What is the position of a person, local authority or any other body who offends against some recent piece of legislation, in view of the fact that no government publican have been regarding the public for some weeks due to a strike that has received remarkably little publicity?

Yours faithfully,
F. H. SMITH,
6 Egley Drive, Mayford, Woking.

ENERGY

Opposing views on best strategy

by Pearce Wright

All the member countries of the International Energy Agency have been rebuffed for "inadequate" energy policies. On present performance they will be unable to meet the main target they set themselves of holding imports of oil to 26 million barrels a day in 1985. That shortfall will be worsened with revisions forced on President Carter's energy Bill last week.

More effective programmes of energy conservation and of increased production of indigenous fuel are needed if that goal is to be met.

This discouraging picture has been drawn by the agency's advisers from forecasts of supply and demand and from the evaluation of energy conservation measures introduced over the past four years by the member states. These include the European Community, the United States, Japan and eight other industrial countries.

With the advantage of a mixture of coal, gas, oil and nuclear power supplies, the performance of the United Kingdom is rated higher than most of her neighbours. The prospect of achieving self-sufficiency in oil in the 1980s is regarded with an optimism tempered by caution, and with criticism of serious deficiencies in developments in Britain.

For instance, transport is singled out as the area in which fewest measures have been introduced to save fuel. On the other hand, some of the most impressive achievements in energy conservation among domestic and industrial consumers have been accomplished in Britain.

The most interesting feature of the International Energy Agency analysts' report is in some cases, assumptions about the rate at which North Sea oil and gas will

in their opinion, to be exploited. This goes directly to the heart of the British energy policy, and bears directly on the balancing act of industry and government in managing a four-fuel economy (coal, oil, gas, and nuclear) to get the best results.

Last year the spending by energy users exceeded £16,000m more than £4,115m by industry, £5,425m by transport, £4,225m for domestic use, and £2,335m for public services and others.

Needless to say there is far from universal agreement over a strategy which should produce the best results for all these consumers. As other articles by senior energy experts in this Special Report indicate, there are strongly opposing views about the ideal pricing policies and fiscal incentives needed for particular sectors of industry. Each case is argued cogently in the national interest.

With a temporary world glut of supplies and good local reserves, there had been a lull in the debate about national energy policy until its revival at the Labour Party conference at Blackpool.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, found vocal support from the floor on a demand for more public ownership of the resources of the North Sea.

The Government starts with full control. It owns the resources under the British part of the North Sea, setting exploration rights to the highest bidder. The British National Oil Corporation has been given the best slice in the last round of licensing.

Thus the only big change for the commercial companies would be one of operating as contractors instead of concessionaires of the 100-square-mile blocks in the North Sea. About 70 per cent of the profits of North Sea oil and gas will

be taken in tax.

However, the Blackpool conference debates amounted to an enthusiastic show of dogma, which predictably was divided by the Tories. In practice there is more common ground between the two parties than they, perhaps, care to acknowledge. They share the idea of North Sea oil and gas as giving a vital breathing space in which to build an industrial revival.

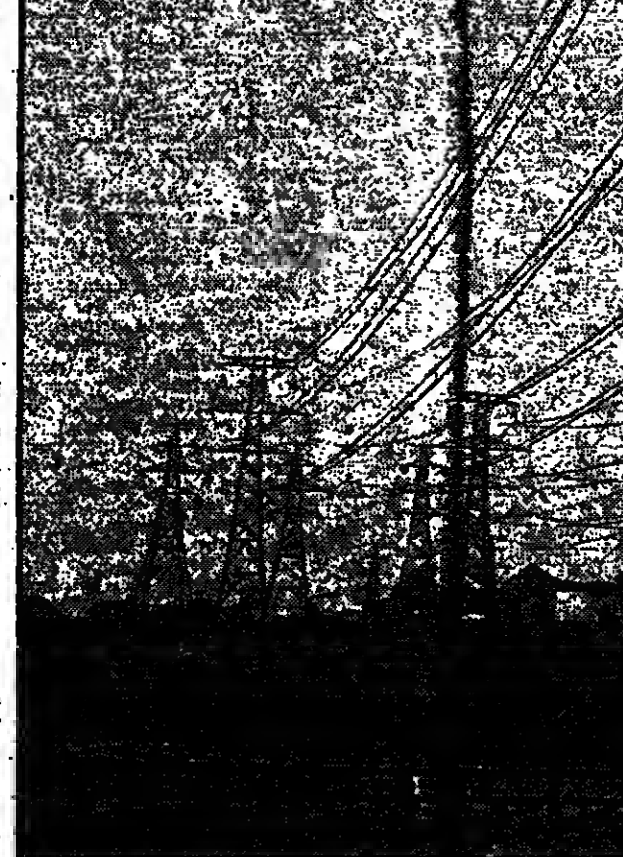
The big divergence of views over the best way of using this breathing space for recovery does not occur between the two main political parties. It is the economists who believe that a new economic order depends on industries and styles of living which use less energy, based on the creation of industries to enable a greater share of energy supplies to come from renewable resources.

Apart from rejecting the conventional economic arguments for fast extraction from the North Sea, they suggest that even the most optimistic forecasts reveal these reserves as too small for the basis of an economic resurgence. They say that more value would come from slower depletion and the development of renewable resources.

The Department of Energy recently allocated a further £4.5m for research and development of wave, wind, and geothermal energy. It also allocated £1.5m for an assessment of schemes to build a tidal barrage across the Severn Estuary.

All told, the Government has committed £16m for work over the next few years on these inexhaustible sources of energy, including solar and wind power.

On the other hand, the Government is setting aside £450m over the next few years to finance energy conservation programmes in the public sector, private houses and industry. But all these projects are dwarfed by the huge investments for the development of coal, gas, nuclear and oil



resources on which attention tends understandably to focus.

Although there are disputes about the best form and most suitable uses of energy, there is agreement that an uninterrupted and secure supply is vital. The strikes over oil imports, strikes at power stations and miners' disputes have shown how easily commerce, industry and even agriculture can be strangled.

The policies of the two main parties reflect a traditional belief that there is a causal connexion between an increase in wealth (as measured by gross national product) and social welfare and a rise in the use of energy.

Those who believe in a very different relationship between energy consumption and economic activity should welcome the analyses in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics

1978, which provides data for comparing trends in gnp and the supply, use and pricing of primary energy resources throughout Britain in the past decade.

Analysts at the Department of Energy have also reduced the 100 tables and charts of statistics to a diagram (see page 26) showing where energy is used. It pinpoints the sources of waste as well as the general complexity of sustaining a fuel supply.

It also shows clearly the elaborate chain in which so much fuel is lost before a useful supply of energy reaches the consumer. The most glaring waste is that discarded in electricity generation. Over the past 50 years the supply of primary energy in Britain has more than doubled, but the amount delivered as useful power to the factory, office, car and home has increased by only one half. The other

half of the supply has gone to fuel the fuel industries. The need to use such vast amounts of power to sustain the energy industries has come with the development of technologies for the conversion of energy.

It was a pitfall identified by the late Dr Schemmacher in his book *Small is Beautiful* well before the actions of the Opec countries forced the industrial countries to stop squandering fossil fuels. Some powerful opposition still exists in the energy industries to his argument that we should stop treating fossil fuels as income. He argues for fossil fuels to be given their proper value as capital items, and for more attention to be given to conservation.

Perhaps the electricity generating industry might find more sympathy for its plea for fairer treatment in the pricing of fuel supplies, if more than one ton of use-ful energy could be delivered to consumers for every three tons burnt in the station.

The generating industry complains of the protective high prices for coal and gas, either by better use of public transport or greater efficiency in the operation of commercial vehicles; hence a big disadvantage to such a policy of a common price for gas and electricity would mean that many lower-paid consumers who might otherwise have had central heating by gas would not have central heating by electricity because they would not be able to afford it.

Some of the other factors underlying increases in the use of energy are not so obvious. A study of transport by Mr Gerald Leach describes how the combination of price and convenience offered by the private car led to a big shift

from public and rail travel to private road transport, with a greater use of energy.

There is little sign of improvement in energy savings in Britain in this sector, either by better use of public transport or greater efficiency in the operation of commercial vehicles; hence a big disadvantage to such a policy of a common price for gas and electricity would mean that many lower-paid consumers who might otherwise have had central heating by gas would not have central heating by electricity because they would not be able to afford it.

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We're working to help solve the world's energy problem.



The world is furiously burning the energy candle at both ends and in the middle too, and unless the most is made of the energy presently available there could be serious shortages by the mid-1980's.

The urgent search for more energy is nothing new to BP.

We've been grappling with the problems of producing oil and gas in increasing quantities in the North Sea, Alaska and 20 countries world wide, as

well as developing means to extract oil products from coal, shale and oil sands; and making more efficient use of the resources we already have. For example, we introduced BP VF7 into the UK, the first of a new generation of light-viscosity oils which saves the motorist petrol.

But in BP we know that oil and gas will have to be supplemented by other fuels to meet future world energy needs. We are developing new sources of coal, to create electricity for industry,

while still expanding our interest in such novel resources as wave power and solar energy.

All these things will be needed to keep economies growing and wheels turning. And BP has the people and facilities to help solve, in the UK and internationally, a problem that concerns the whole world.



Gas: time for further exploration

by Sir Denis Rooke

The Middle East crisis of 1973, and Opec's quadrupling of oil prices, focused public attention on energy matters in a way that led to deep and often unreasoning concern. Fortunately, in the interim, a more balanced view has emerged; we hear much less about an energy gap and its date has been pushed farther into the future.

Many people now agree that as far as Britain is concerned any major problem of overall shortage is likely to be well beyond the long-term planning strategy of fuel buyers. This view is in contrast to the time of the Church House Energy Conference in 1976, where so many were prophesying an energy gap in the 1980s and 1990s.

British Gas took a different line and questioned the whole concept of a gap. And nothing has happened since the conference to make us change our view. Indeed it has been reinforced, as energy usage has adjusted to new price regimes and to government fuel-saving policies, and as more hydrocarbon discoveries have been

made in the North Sea and elsewhere. Ironically, despite two years more consumption under our belts there is now too much energy on the market. Oil tankers are laid up, coal stocks mount, and power stations work at a fraction of capacity. That this surplus may be short-term does nothing to alleviate the difficulty of policy-making in energy.

But sensible planning there must be. Energy decisions can commit the nation to great expenditure and huge social change. So it is vital for such decisions to be made deliberately and with as much information as possible. In Britain, with our healthy reserves of coal, oil and natural gas, we have time to do this.

Big decisions should be delayed until lead-times make action imperative so that they can be made in the light of up-to-date economic and technological data. The Government needs to set the framework within which this can happen and to avoid taking premature decisions on the grounds of short-term political expediency.

It is also the Government's role to ensure that research and development is channelled into appropriate areas. All

though research and development is cheap relative to production, it will not be possible to follow up each and every lead and some choices will have to be made. This may require some realignment of traditional attitudes.

For example, using technology already developed and proved by British Gas, it is already possible to make substantial natural gas from coal at a higher overall efficiency and at lower capital cost than generating electricity from it. Therefore unless some new development takes place, the main competitor to nuclear-based electricity when North Sea reserves finally run down might well be gas from coal.

Another simple assumption that needs to be questioned is that the largest finds of gas and oil on the Continental Shelf and elsewhere have already been made. New technology and perseverance sometimes pay handsome dividends. Some of the world's biggest discoveries have been made in the secondary exploration phase. Round our coasts, including some parts of the North Sea, we have only just begun the primary phase.

British Gas's experience with its gas discoveries in the Irish Sea and the major oil find in Dorset is very much to the point. The need is to ensure that exploration of all prospective areas is

carried out thoroughly, while at the same time avoiding a temporary glut of oil or gas leading to wastage. The aim should be to spread these resources as far as possible into the future, to maintain a stable fuel economy, making a positive contribution to our competitive position in an increasingly tough and economic environment.

There is a potential conflict of interest to be resolved between the short-term needs of investors for a quick return on the large investments required to bring new oil and gas fields into production, and the long-term needs of the nation as a whole.

A third area where continuing government leadership is required is in energy conservation. I regard conservation as a key element in energy strategy. Energy conservation is not simply about regulating production and saving fuel for the future. It is about using fuel efficiently—getting the same standard of comfort or the same industrial effect by burning less fuel and saving money. Using energy more efficiently will not only conserve energy resources for the future, but also increase productivity now.

As far as British Gas is concerned, marketing policy continues to be directed to selling preferentially into

very different from the pattern followed in other countries where gas has been used indiscriminately in premium and non-premium applications alike. For example, BGC estimates that 13 billion cubic feet of gas in power stations last year, almost as much as the whole of the gas sold in Britain during the same period—and two thirds of that energy (more than enough to supply every household in Britain) was lost in the generating process.

Correct pricing of energy is another vital factor in ensuring that it is not wasted. The policy of artificial price restraint is, at last, I think, universally recognized. What the public-sector energy industries now need from Government is the setting of realistic financial targets which take account of the opportunities and problems of individual industries, and which are regularly reviewed, perhaps on a three-year rolling basis.

If the temptation to interfere in day-to-day operations of the industries can be resisted and effort concentrated on setting broad long-term policy guidelines (on energy saving, research and development, and conservation), a natural area of energy policy will emerge.

The author is Chairman, British Gas.

Coal: expanding industry still the aim

by Sir Derek Ezra

While the National Coal Board has argued consistently for a long-term strategy for British coal, we have always recognized that the programme for coal has to be seen within the framework of overall energy policy. We believe the Government's Green Paper on Energy Policy, published earlier this year, represents a major step forward in the evolution of energy policy in such a way as to avoid the extremes of short-term market fluctuation on the one hand and the use of inflexible targets on the other.

A starting point for any determination of energy policy has to be a view of the long-term developing world situation and here the Green Paper recognizes both the extent of the global oil problem and the way in which it will affect United Kingdom policy. The economic value of United Kingdom resources will be related to the international rising oil price and there will be a general tendency for the premium hydrocarbon—oil and natural gas—to be reserved increasingly for premium uses.

In our opinion, the Green Paper follows through the consequences of this world view in a comprehensive way. High priority is rightly given to measures of energy conservation (although there is recognition that such measures, however vigorously pursued, will not pre-

vent a growth in energy development work is going on to this end. In addition to the strategic framework, energy policy needs supportive measures to take account of the inevitable fluctuations in circumstances that occur. For example, when the industry's Plan for Coal was approved by Government in 1974, it was agreed that "short-term fluctuations in the price and availability of competing fuels will not be allowed to interfere with steady progress in the implementation of the plan, while accepting that coal must remain competitive in the light of long-term trends".

Finally, the importance of a strong and expanding coal industry is recognized and the Green Paper concludes that "using the appropriate financial tests, we should proceed with the creation of further new capacity in the coal industry, over and beyond the Plan for Coal, to come into production in the late 1980s and 1990s".

The framework set out in the Green Paper in our view makes possible the complementary development of all the nation's indigenous energy resources. While energy self-sufficiency is not an aim to be pursued regardless of cost, as the world energy situation gets more difficult later in this century there will, nevertheless, clearly be a premium on indigenous supply for both strategic and economic reasons.

In particular we see as very desirable the long-term development of the coal and nuclear power industries carried out in such a way that they displace oil and gas in the bulk combustion markets (particularly power stations and industry); in the longer-term, of course, we shall see further expansion in the use of coal to augment supplies of natural gas and natural oil in their high value uses. The necessary

framework for energy development work is going on to this end.

This provision is required because of the relative short-run inflexibility of the coal industry to respond to sudden changes in the market without damage to long-term capacity. Thus, the board has maintained that although oil prices have been falling recently because of the decline in the value of the dollar this should not inhibit the continuity of the industry's long-term investment programme.

An effective energy policy must continue to have two major ingredients: a broad strategic framework which will provide guidelines for energy supply and use; and pragmatic measures to deal with the inevitable problems that will arise in the short-term.

I believe that an important step has been taken in this direction in the Green Paper.

The author is Chairman, National Coal Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SAVE IT



Sir Derek Ezra on the coalface at Kellingley Colliery, near Castleford, Yorkshire, talks to cutter-driver, Mr Jackie Nelmes.

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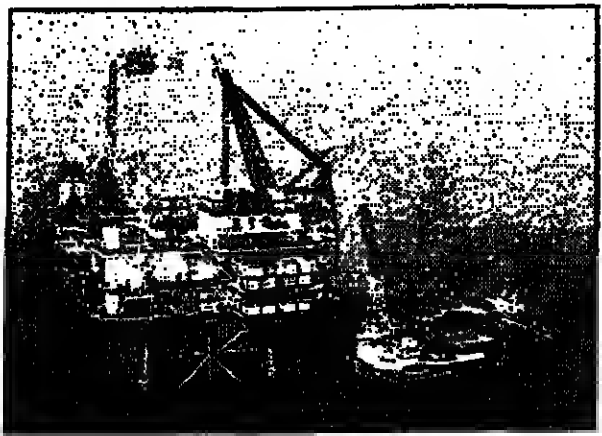
Oil: keeping options open as long as possible

by Nicholas Hirst

The publication of the Green Paper on Energy Policy in February marked the first real attempt by a British government to draw together a whole range of policies covering the individual supply industries.

As early as 1945 Parliament charged itself with co-ordinating energy policy in the Ministry of Fuel and Power Act, but until recently the nationalized power industries were largely allowed to go their own ways. Attempts were made to ease the decline which the market was forcing on the coal industry, but there was a singular lack of direction to synchronize the effects of the cheap gas policy with the planning of electricity supply.

The combined effects of the realization that oil supplies will be running down around the end of the century and the fortuitous discovery of an indigenous off-



Highland Two production platform in the BP Forties field in the North Sea.

shore source for Britain has led to the Government's desire for greater co-ordination.

The Green Paper provides a framework rather than a prescriptive plan. The intention is to keep as many

options open for as long as possible, but the general policies are clear enough. It says that in the longer term all should be kept for transport and petrochemicals. Electricity should be produced by burning coal

and from nuclear fission, and from such constant sources of power as wind and waves. According to the Central Electricity Generating Board's estimates of cost efficiency, oil burning will increase until 1985 as a result of the recent construction of large modern oil-burning power stations. The draft Bill on the reorganisation of the electricity supply industry, however, gives the Secretary of State for Energy powers which he could use to prevent this.

Co-ordinated energy policy could require much more government intervention than there is now, altering the relationships between nationalized industries and government to allow far more direction and imposing more duties than the Herbert Morrison "arm's length" requirement of acting commercially.

But within broad limits market forces can be allowed to act. The degree of intervention will be a matter for the Government to decide.

As the Green Paper points out, oil provides 40 per cent of the nation's energy needs now. That is the largest single contribution of any single source and it will continue to be for some time. The policy is to reduce its use as a heating fuel. A change by industry to coal using fluidized bed combustion is likely to take place before the electricity authorities can change, but within 10 years it is possible to foresee a falling of demand for fuel oil while North Sea supplies are running far higher than our requirements.

This is why the Government took wide powers under the Oil and Submarine Pipelines Act of 1975 to allow it to control the rate of depletion of North Sea reserves. Oil from the North Sea is not suitable for burning industrially, but it may be exported in exchange for Middle East oil which is maintaining the country in a position of net self-sufficiency.

During the 1980s output from the North Sea, according to estimates by the Department of Energy, will be between 100 million and 150 million tonnes a year. The lower end of that range would be sufficient for Britain's needs. It is during this period that there could be conflict between what the Government sees as the national interest and the commercial interest of the oil companies.

The oil companies believe that the best course under the creation of the British National Oil Corporation, were unnecessary. Their argument is that oil companies naturally attempt to make the highest possible profit and that is in the nation's interest.

They would agree that some controls are desirable. It is the extent of interference which worries them. Superficially it seems to be in the nation's interest not to export but to save our oil so that we shall still have our own supply when the world's resources start to run dry.

Economically this is not

necessarily the case. Money earned from exports can be used to build alternative energy sources and if necessary to buy imported energy when it is needed. The rate of depletion depends on the likely price increase of oil held in the ground and the likely interest which could be made on money invested if it were exploited more quickly.

Over at least the next five years the requirements of the balance of payments of the industrial network which has been built up to equip and supply the North Sea producers, and this need to give the multinational oil companies a return which will encourage them to explore and develop more fields, will prevent anything other than minor tinkering with depletion rates.

Assurances given by the Government greatly restrict its ability to intervene before 1982, and it is likely that the need to get the oil out as quickly as possible could continue for some years after that.

Production consistently has been below estimates made by the Department of Energy and there is some doubt as to whether Britain will be self-sufficient by the forecast date of 1980.

But at some time in the future the powers on depletion may be used. Overriding any economic argument is the political uncertainty whether, when the world's oil begins to run out, it will be possible to buy it at any price. The Arab embargo of 1973 was short-lived, but it was a nasty foretaste of what might come.

Government policy in the meantime is likely to concentrate on more specific matters.

The general aim is to get the maximum benefit from the North Sea. This may mean encouraging the oil companies to increase their refinery capacity in the United Kingdom, or to save gas by reinjecting it into fields rather than by burning it off in flares.

There can be differences between the benefit to an oil company working in the North Sea and the nation because of the financing needs of a company. The need to get a return from large capital investment is an overriding consideration for an oil company. The size and nature of that finance can influence its development of a field.

Increasingly the Department of Energy is concerned itself with development to ensure that decisions to build pipelines are not taken too early, making a field which may have been developed commercially uneconomical by not being part of a pipeline system.

Whether the greater intervention which the present Government has brought into energy policy and to operations in the North Sea will in the long run improve the benefits to the nation only time will tell.

The author is Energy Correspondent, The Times.

Unions' bumpy road to common policy

by Christopher Thomas

The Trades Union Congress travelled a bumpy road before reaching a common policy among the 14 unions in the energy industries. Government and industry, it points out, have not done nearly so well in sinking their differences.

Almost seven years ago, long before energy matters were raised to their present status, the TUC set up a fuel and power industries committee, which soon began exhorting governments to establish a co-ordinated policy for energy.

It pointed out to Labour and Conservative administrations that decisions in one industry directly affected the welfare and progress of others. It gave a warning that decisions on energy policy critically affected the welfare of supply industries such as the turbine generator and boiler-making industries; it insisted that corporate managements did not take account of those external effects.

Mr Frank Chapple, chairman of the fuel and power industries committee, said in January 1977: "The need for a top level body like the Energy Commission to bring heads together and work out mutually agreed policies".

In a nutshell, the TUC's energy policy is for a balanced development of all fuel supplies so that developed sources are ready to supply the market in the late 1990s when an energy gap is expected. Its detailed policies are:

Coal: The target is for an expansion of output to 200 million tons a year by the year 2000. Coal reserves are being discovered faster than they are being used. The problem of depletion will not be faced for perhaps hundreds of years.

For the target to be reached there will need to be a rapid development of new pits, both open-cast and underground. Coal will have to win new markets if 200 million tons is to be sustained annually. Every effort should therefore be made to seek out new market opportunities through conversion into gas, oil or chemical feedstocks.

The share of coal in the domestic heating market should be encouraged to expand by building flues in new housing. There should be long-term contracts of supply between the National Coal Board and the generating authorities.

Oil-fired power stations should be converted to coal where possible and research into coal-burning technology should be intensified. In the shorter term the problem of large coal stocks should not be solved by the early closure of pits. A solution should be sought at a European level, where coal imports (at October 1977) are 40 million tons a year. The present United Kingdom stocks are 30 million tons.

Natural gas: This should

be used to expand the chemical industry through the growth of exports of products of high added value. The unregulated growth in the use of gas in the domestic market could lead to a dangerous dependence on a fuel which would have to be bought in world markets at high cost when domestic supplies were exhausted.

There means a cautious watch should be made on the growth of the market share of natural gas as an energy supplier, rather than as a source of chemical feedstock.

Nuclear power: There will be a growing need for facilities to store and reprocess nuclear waste. It is essential that Britain's reprocessing facilities are expanded. The British industry has shown that reprocessing is an area where there is a clear technological and competitive advantage.

The TUC has examined the safety aspects of reprocessing and the transport and storage of radioactive materials and it is satisfied that existing standards and procedures are adequate. The pace of the nuclear programme should be kept in parallel with continuing progress on safety matters.

But development should

not be held up until all possible safety questions have been answered. There is a danger that if the nuclear programme was held up for safety reasons, a sudden shortage of energy in the 1990s would precipitate an emergency programme of nuclear power station building, while the network of reprocessing facilities and knowledge on safety matters would be inadequate to deal with the problems that such a programme would raise.

Oil: North Sea oil is the one primary source of fuel over which it is essential to exercise effective public control. Whatever the difficulties, the TUC is against depleting oil reserves at a rapid rate to build up an exportable surplus.

If oil reserves are to be run down at a rate which exceeds the requirements of domestic consumption then that surplus should be used as an input for an expanded petrochemical industry. The TUC agrees that some of the North Sea oil revenues should be used to finance research into energy saving and alternative sources of energy.

It is important that the industry refines in Britain a high proportion of its needs. The special position of the United Kingdom as an oil

producer is a strong argument to aim for self-sufficiency in refining.

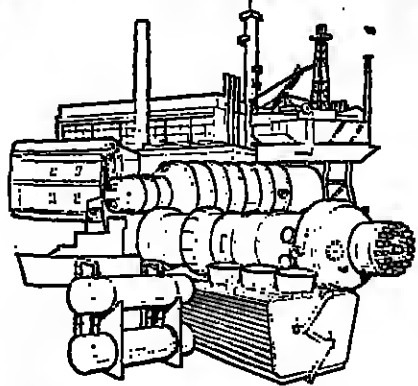
Energy saving: The United Kingdom uses more energy per unit of gross national product than most other developed countries, so there is much to be gained from conservation and improvement of energy. British standards of insulation are low. Central and local government have an important role to play in encouraging energy saving.

Pricing and finance: Energy prices should be set to cover long-term costs. There is no case for subsidizing energy prices in a world where energy will become scarcer. Particular sectors where energy costs take a large part of income should receive assistance with fuel bills. That should be chiefly accomplished through social services.

A part of the North Sea oil revenues should be used to finance investment in the coal and nuclear industries as well as to meet investment in wind and solar power. The fuel industry should in future rely less on outside borrowing at fixed rates of interest.

The author is Labour Reporter, The Times.

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Heat conservation scheme gets lukewarm reception

by Pearce Wright

In one of the earliest industrial studies on energy conservation, the Government's Think Tank (the Central Policy Review Staff) pointed to the need for the more efficient generation of electricity and more effective use of the heat rejected from power stations.

It was a powerful voice to add to those which for more than 20 years have urged the harnessing of the waste energy from power stations for schemes as diverse as district heating, warming greenhouses and the soil for horticulture, and leaping the waters of fish farms at the same temperature throughout the year.

The thermal efficiency of the best electricity stations is less than 35 per cent, because the energy lost in converting fuel to electricity is discarded as waste heat from the condenser.

While the electricity industry loses one out of every three tons of fuel being burnt, thousands of industrial, commercial, and domestic premises are providing the same grade of heat from their own boilers. Heating, in all its forms, accounts for the overwhelming use of fuel.

Against this background, there has been widespread concern in the Midlands Electricity Board to build an energy conservation station at

Hereford. This is the first modern combined heat and power station to be developed in Britain. The Government has agreed to it after a lengthy argument by Mr Geoffrey Shephard, the Chairman of the Midlands Board.

It has had a decidedly lukewarm reception elsewhere in the power generation industry. Although this project (which is attracting many inquiries from abroad) is only part of a big energy conservation programme, it may turn out to be the most important development for the long-term future of fuel supplies. It could stretch the coal supplies needed from the year 2000 onwards for liquid fuel, chemicals and gas supplies.

Before looking at that argument it is important to recognise the complexity of energy conservation policies. The Government's Save It campaign reaches immediately into domestic, industrial and public buildings.

The combination of better housekeeping and grants for insulation and energy-saving machinery and process plant is having an impact. Many companies now do energy audits, and awards are offered for companies showing important fuel savings.

In domestic architecture, the same designers are being encouraged to include solar energy and heat exchange schemes in their plans. A special issue

earlier this year of the RIBA Journal on "Energy and Built Form" indicated the range of developments and new ideas in private and public housing, factories, offices, schools and other buildings.

Industry is the biggest consumer of energy, with a small number of factories processing materials such as iron and steel, chemicals, aluminium, building materials and paper absorbing two thirds of it. Most of these were well into modernisation programmes which increased efficiency in Britain by 20 per cent, according to an analysis by J. H. Chesshire and C. M. Buckley in *Energy Policy*.

A fascinating guide to good housekeeping for any factory, big or small, is provided by a handbook on *Industrial Energy Conservation* by D. A. Reay of International Research and Development, Newcastle, published by Pergamon. It not only examines the means of equipment common to most industrial operations, but describes waste heat recovery, energy storage and new processes which may be unfamiliar to many managers.

Sooner or later the issue returns to electricity supplies, and whether more energy can be extracted from the fuel. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the coal board, said the basic programmes of the fuel industries (gas, electric, nuclear, coal and oil) were satisfactory. The weakness came on

moving away from these industries. One difficulty was that the pricing signals were going the wrong way for the consumer to be doing what was necessary for the longer term.

Speaking at a meeting of the Government's Energy Commission, Sir Derek said district heating was determined both by the relative prices for energy, and the test discount rate which might be adopted at any one time. This was a purely subjective way of deciding what was going to be an important means of making the best use of energy.

This argument looks persuasive if the Hereford experiment succeeds. For it could show how to extend the existing reserves of coal in Britain from the estimated 300 years to more like 600 years by more efficient conversion processes. The Hereford station will take two years to complete. Costing about £2,500,000, it will provide electricity to the local grid and steam and hot water to H. P. Bulmers and Sun Valley Poultry Products. The thermal efficiency is calculated at 76 per cent, or 2.5 times higher than that of a conventional modern station. In congratulating the Midlands Board on its initiative, Mr Ernest Haseler, the founder of the District Heating Association, suggests in *Electrical Review* that Drax B must be a combined heat and power development and that a national heat board is needed.



Landscaping a spoil heap at Bettws anthracite mine near Ammanford, Dyfed.



The tanker Christos Bitas awash after running aground in the Irish Sea a fortnight ago. The resulting oil spillage has added weight to the mounting criticism that the oil boom has outstripped the safety measures required.

A thrifty life-style painful but possible

Since it is obvious that greater productivity must make us richer it is assumed that it cannot make anyone poorer or that if it does it is simply a question of butting heads. It is assumed that when technological man overwhelms a more primitive way of life he does so because another way of life has created a vacuum and people naturally turn to the more advanced way.

This is Professor Richard Scorer's introduction to a chapter in *The Clever Man* examining the way technology destroys cultures evolved over centuries. In spite of its title, this warning against hasty technological advances which by their very success destroy the environment, contains a gloomy optimism. For although certain economists, mindless scientists, industrialists and avaricious consumers who make a catastrophe probable, he believes a transition to a life-style more thrifty in the use of energy and mineral resources may be painful but possible.

Because he lacks the evangelical fervour of the preachers of doom or the reassuring appeal of the technologists, Professor Scorer's appeal to politicians, housewives, scientists and accountants has perhaps made less impact than it deserves. He makes clear that among the major technical advances responsible for deterioration of the environment, those for increasing the supply of fossil fuels are among the most destructive. This has been recognised with the creation of a Standing Commission on Energy and the Environment.

Its sphere of interest should be obvious, considering the recent tanker accidents and North Sea oil spills, continued protests against the development of nuclear power and nuclear waste disposal, and the development of large-scale open-cast mining and other coal excavation, and opposition to the Craigroyston scheme to build the largest pumped-storage power station in Europe on the east bank of Loch Lomond.

The purpose of the new standing commission is ostensibly to discuss such issues in public. Many people in industry and government, and to some extent university staff who receive research and postgraduate training grants from the other two groups, believe these matters should be decided by experts behind closed doors.

As nearly as makes no difference, the exploitation of North Sea oil and gas, coal deposits and nuclear power has been done that way.

The change came with the public tribunal into plans for the reprocessing of nuclear waste at Windscale. An immediate response from industry to public participation is that it delays its projects, as indeed it does and should do. Executives of the nuclear industry made their views clear before the Windscale inquiry, which they described as government ministers abdicating responsibility for making a decision to a High Court judge.

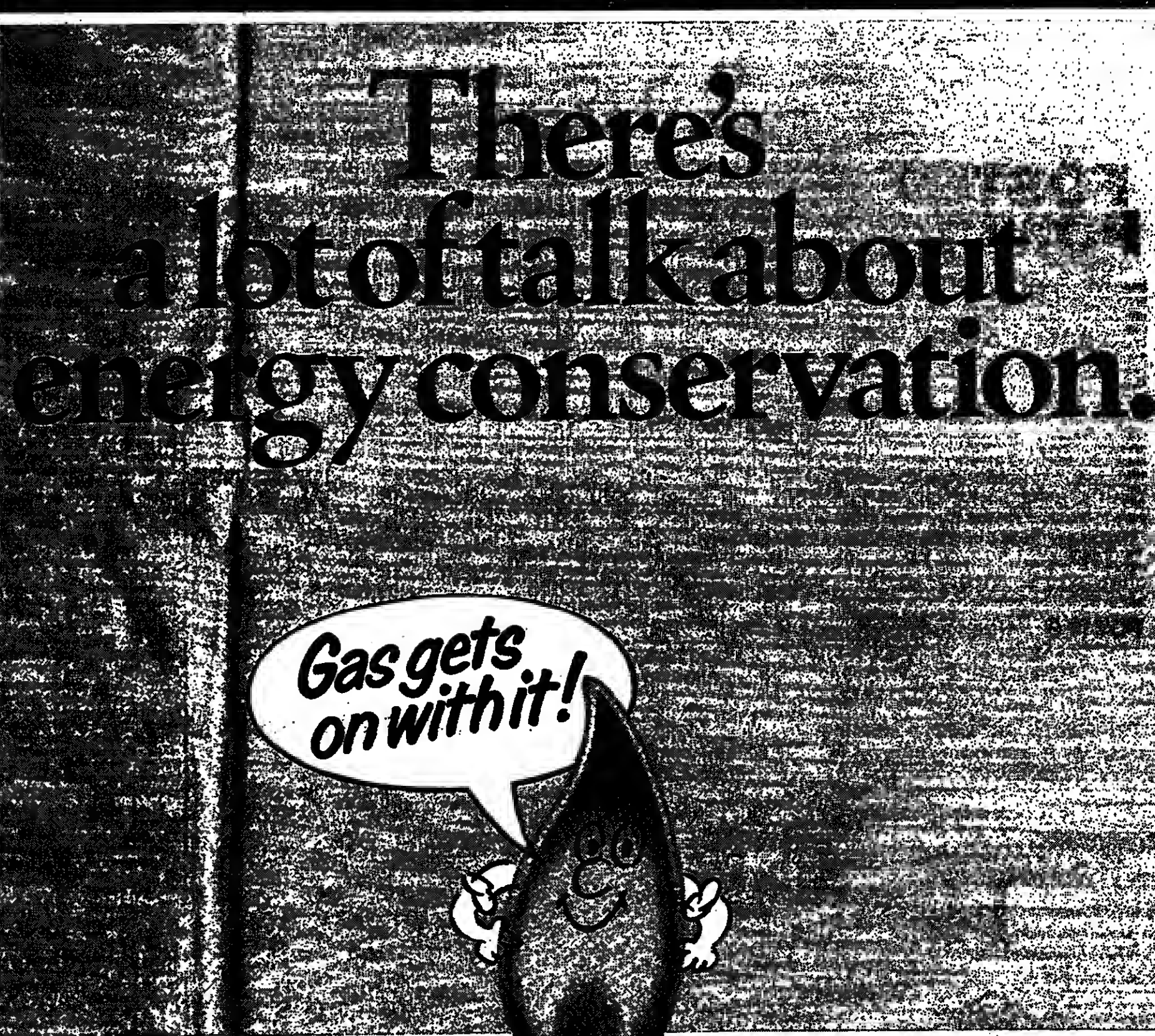
Oil companies' comments about the questioning of their activities have been more inpolite, but they cannot cover up blow-outs or spillages running into thousands of tons. Emergency plans have

been made between oil companies and government departments to cope with spills, and analyses of the impact on the environment of specific oil field and oil terminal developments. It is a little unfair to dismiss these efforts as merely public relations exercises, as Guy Arnold suggests in *Britain's Oil*, published last week; but experience justifies his theme that this "business rush" to get oil out of the North Sea has outstripped measures for safety and protection.

The creation of the new standing commission is an attempt to bring the issues into public debate in a more reasoned way, and to prevent conflict between environmental interests and the energy industries. A more direct form of public participation has been introduced in President Carter's revised energy Bill which has just been accepted. This followed the sending of 600,000 questionnaires to more than 300,000 individuals and organizations by the Energy and Planning Group of the Executive Office of the President.

On environmental questions the answers showed there was little neutral feeling. The responses demonstrated an awareness of the impact of the needs of energy on the quality of the air, land and water coupled with the desire for an aesthetically attractive landscape. In most replies energy and environment were seen as being in opposition to one another. But attitudes ranged from "In no event should environmental concerns become secondary" to "The unemployed and poor have little interest in environmental impact problems when it keeps them from leading a decent life financially".

P. W.



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Fusion power still a long way to go

by Pearce Wright

Encouraging results from research in magnetic nuclear fusion have revived enthusiasm about harnessing the enormous power released when hydrogen atoms are forced together to form helium. In principle the energy from this process can be turned into a useful form of heat to drive the generators of a power station. But controlled nuclear fusion means reproducing the conditions that prevail on the sun in the explosion of a hydrogen bomb.

Nuclear fusion is an attractive idea because of the near-unlimited reserves of fuel available for the reactors being tested in a handful of research centres in the United States, Russia, Britain and elsewhere in Europe. Most of the experiments are for fusing together two forms of hydrogen—deuterium and tritium. After heating the fuel to more than 50 million degrees centigrade and squeezing it together with enormously powerful super-magnets, the transformation occurs with a huge release of energy.

It needs little imagination to recognize that nuclear fusion is at the exotic end of the research and development spectrum.

Assuming that the scientists resolve some formidable questions of the physics of the fusion-reaction this form of power could still not be considered as a possible contribution to world energy supplies within the next 30 years.

Attitudes towards the prospects for fusion power range from the unbridled enthusiasm of the Russians, a growing interest among the Americans and a more cautious expectation among the European teams.

There will be severe technical hurdles in the transition from laboratory machines to reactors suitable for commercial power stations. On the other hand nuclear fusion has a potential advantage over the present nuclear fission

fission products or transuranic elements. And the amount of fuel used in the reaction zone (about one gramme) is safe.

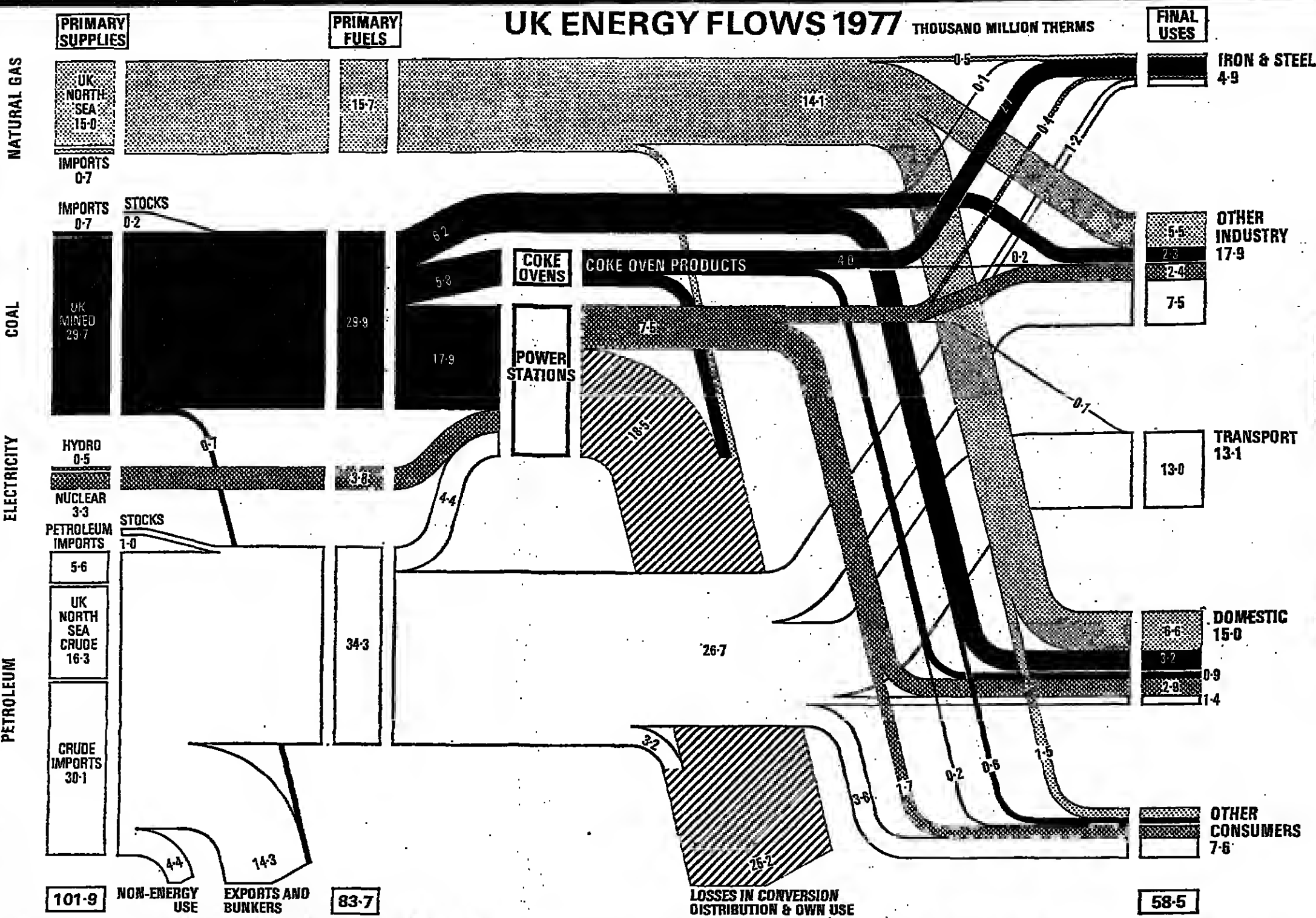
The appeal of fusion as a potentially inexhaustible supply of energy is understandable. But there is ample experience of technological development from the energy, transport, aviation, steel, chemical and other industries to indicate that the price of fusion will be high.

Even though the experimental machines cost more than £100m, the basic research and development is relatively cheap. Costs rise with a depressing inevitability when construction starts on the large commercial versions. Fortunately the other inexhaustible sources of energy such as solar radiation, windpower, bioenergy, tidal power, wave-power and geothermal energy present potential sources that can be exploited more quickly and with more certainty than the fusion reactors.

However, the development of all of them raises the question: "How soon will the inexhaustible supplies be needed?" In principle the answer is: "Immediately." Their introduction is the most obvious way of slowing down the depletion of fossil fuels. In practice the answer is not so simple. The number of opinions about the relative importance of the inexhaustible or renewable resources are almost as great as the number of energy experts.

Well argued but different replies can be elicited to a discussion between scientists, engineers, economists or environmentalists. Nowhere is this demonstrated more clearly than at the meetings of the Government's Energy Commission, which covers all these disciplines and more in a body drawn from chairmen of the energy industries, main users, consumer groups, planners, academics and others.

But one of the attractions of the inexhaustible resources is that they not only can supply electric power, but they can provide other fuels as well. And the energy crisis tends not to be an electricity shortage but a crisis in transportable fuels. There is agreement that no matter how much money is poured into the develop-



Adapted from the colour chart published with the Digest of United Kingdom Energy, September, 1978.

ment of renewable resources, these resources cannot be developed overnight. But investigations show how a considerable supply of energy can be built up over the next few years from the sun and wind, and from the waves and tide over a much longer term. Blinkered attitudes in the oil and nationalized fuel supply industries have hindered the introduction of renewable sources of supply.

Economics dictate how resources like coal, oil and thermal nuclear power will be used and will enter the market. The usual methods of cost benefit analysis and cash flow do not work so readily with the inexhaustible resources.

New schemes for exploiting renewable resources are usually planned on a longer time scale. There also tends to be an expensive development phase because there is

no industrial base, or that accumulation of experience which eventually pushes down production costs. Hence the Government will inevitably be faced with footing the bill for big technical projects until an industrial structure is created.

Without any help from officialdom, a commercial structure is emerging in solar energy. Gradually several local authorities and private builders are experi-

menting with designs to increase the use of renewable fuels and reduce the burning of fossil reserves. Some are renovations to buildings and others are new housing stock.

The Government is contributing through organizations like the Science Research Council and the Building Research Establishment in design and measurement investigations of special houses that are effectively low-energy laboratories.

Almost the entire building stock in Britain was built before 1973 when the Opec countries formed their cartel and quadrupled energy prices. The adoption of solar panels, heat pumps and thermal storage systems are among the immediate measures that can be taken to develop renewable energy sources. Even for domestic purposes their introduction requires care in planning, choice of materials and installation. Nevertheless the units are small and suited to established manufacturing practices.

Of course, solar energy units (which also include greenhouses) were being produced for use in warmer climates long before the oil crisis. Increased prices have simply made such products competitive with fossil fuel installations.

More exotic solar energy systems are another matter. The direct conversion of the sun's radiation to electricity by photovoltaic cells is still 50 times too expensive for general application.

Experiments by chemists with compounds to release hydrogen for fuel from water by absorbing sunlight are at a very early stage. The same can be said for work in photobiology to exploit photosynthesis to produce coal and more food. These are the potential large-scale applications needing government "seed" money to reach fruition.

Interest in wind power illustrates this too. The knowledge gained from the time when thousands of windmills operated in England provides only a limited basis for their revival as a suitable alternative energy source.

Development depends on three categories. Windmills can be grouped into small (one-10 kilowatts) for electrical supply (and water pumping) for the farm, dairy, and remote places, medium (10-100 kW) for community groups, small industries and remote power supply, and large (up to four megawatts) for public utility supply and large water conservation schemes.

Large versions of up to 4MW that could feed the national grid or provide a local power station are being examined by a new consortium involving British Aerospace, Taylor Woodrow and Cleveland Bridge and Engineering. They are working with the Electrical Research Association which some years ago identified 1,500 billion sites suitable for large wind turbine generators.

The only comparable machine to size is one under evaluation by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the United States. The British design is a two-bladed horizontal-axis unit about 60 metres in diameter on a 45-metre tower. The members of the con-

sortium behind the new Wind Power Group indicates the type of technology needed for the modern wind-turbine generator and for the potential market.

Another type of machine being developed by Dr Peter Musgrove of Reading University and others, accepts wind from any direction and is fairly cheap to build. It is a hulk device in the medium and small categories.

Wave-power and tidal power, diffuse in industrial terms from the other sources. Harnessing waves will eventually call for the application of marine engineering skills. But the devices that generate power by bobbing about in the waves like the Saker duck and the Cockerell raft, bring together many differing engineering skills. Tidal power, which in

Britain means the plan for a Bristol Channel-Severn Estuary barrage, raises other issues connected with vast out-of-civil engineering projects.

Reexamining such a scheme is costing the Government £1.5m with ultimate costs between £3,000m and £5,000m but with the promise of saving considerable quantities of coal and fossil fuels.

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LAING
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City support for
closer contact
with Treasury on
finance policy

By Ashkanan Gibson
There is "very substantial support" among City institutions for the establishment of some formal channel of communication between them and the Government.

This was revealed yesterday by Mr Peter Moody, joint secretary and managing director of the Prudential Assurance Company, and this year's president of the Institute of Actuaries.

Mr Moody said the Governor of the Bank of England, who has traditionally been the means by which the City has communicated with the Treasury, "does a great deal, but he can't do the lot".

He said there were occasions, such as the tripartite consultations between the Government, the CBI and the TUC, when it might very well be helpful for the financial interests of the country to be represented in the same way.

He said there were some areas of ignorance in the Government's handling of City and financial affairs, which might seem strange to those who deal with such matters every day.

For example, the institutions tended to use intermediaries such as the venture capital funds when investing in the shares of unquoted companies.

Mr Moody was discussing the contents of his speech last night to the Institute of Actuaries, which was held at the Grosvenor Hotel.

In it he pointed out that, for instance, the housing which developed in the Government's funding programme in the autumn of 1976 and the spring of 1977 might have been less successful had some means of communication existed between the Government and the institutions in general, rather than the handful with whom "soundings" were taken.

"We need more formal consultation between the long-term investors and the Government to avoid what already exists with the banks, building societies and others," he said.

He thought it was correct that finance should play a relatively passive role in the discussion of the country's economic problems, but he said that some aspects of finance, "acting on



Mr Peter Moody, areas of ignorance in the Government's handling of City affairs.

the financial system, do produce far-reaching effects, and the lack of adequate consultation with long-term investors is an obvious gap."

In his speech Mr Moody denied that there had been an "investment strike" during the autumn of 1976 and the spring of 1977.

He said that, if the institutions suspended their buying of government stock, it should be recognized that this was "a well-informed body of people who had come independently to a common view that the current level of interest rates will have to be changed."

He said that the action of the stock market in providing an early warning system should be regarded as a source of strength and not a weakness.

Mr Moody also argued that the fact that a "money market" might develop as a consequence of the build-up of institutional cash flow was misplaced.

And he suggested that public sector pension schemes might well invest the bulk of their cash flow in government stock, rather than, as at present, joining the private sector in the chase for high-quality equities.

Financial Editor, page 29

BL secret meeting to
settle craft pay row

By Clifford Webb
BL Cars joint negotiating committee of management and trade union representatives held a surprise meeting in Coventry yesterday to try to resolve differences between the two sides.

The meeting, which was held at the BL headquarters in Coventry, was the first since the introduction of parity and a new five-grade pay scale for the 100,000 manual workers.

It follows a weekend meeting of 30 directors, union officials and shop stewards under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Edwards, BL's chairman, and Mr Moss Evans, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The two-day meeting was held at a secret venue and was described by Mr Edwards as "an encouraging attempt to thrash out ways and means of improving the present unsatisfactory situation."

The differences have arisen between the TGWU, which represents the bulk of BL's production workers, and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which represents a higher proportion of skilled workers, including the military toolmakers led by Mr Roy Fraser.

The AUEW is fighting to restore the pay differentials of its skilled members, while the TGWU is under pressure to ensure that the greater effort expended on assembly line work earns equal reward.

One of the big problem areas is the Cowley plant where the TGWU had a notable victory in the "skill versus effort" contest and established equal pay for both craftsmen and assembly line workers.

AUEW leaders are worried by the increasing militancy of the toolmakers. Mr Fraser's rebellion against the union's established negotiating procedure arose directly from the speakers' conviction that they will see their old differentials restored only when they win the separate negotiating rights.

This has led to talk among toolmakers and other craftsmen of a "split" in the union, with the TGWU being seen as a breakaway union.

To counter this, engineering union representatives on the BL Cars joint negotiating committee are fighting for five new grades to be created instead of four, a new "supergrade" covering toolmakers. The management also favours the five-grade approach.

But the talks have now dragged on for several months. Mr Fraser's unofficial BL toolroom committee meets today to consider latest developments. It deferred strike action last week because of optimistic reports of progress in the pay talks.

Both sides are trying to reach agreement for parity to be introduced on November 1, one year ahead of the planned date for universal strikes.

However, the scheme is so wide-ranging and complex that even if agreement is reached in the eight days remaining, but an announcement now that it will be backdated to operate from November 1 will be just as effective.

It also could put an end to the 12-week parity strike by 33 toolmakers at SU Fuel Systems.

BP defends
record on
Rhodesia oil
sanctions

By Nicholas Hirst

British Petroleum believes that allegations made against it on sensitive issues including Rhodesian oil sanctions and political payments overseas are unfair.

The allegations came from Government sources last week and reflected the unease felt by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, over the way in which the Government's special relationship with BP is operating.

The company is 51 per cent state owned.

Mr Benn accepted a resolution at the Labour Party Conference for the company's nationalization, and last week specific criticisms were made explaining how dealings with BP had become unsatisfactory.

They included: informing the Department of Energy only 24 hours before announcing a £200m deal for the takeover of Veba interests in West Germany; payment to Indian politicians; undermining the British position on EEC refinery policy; and involvement in supplying oil to Rhodesia.

BP simply disagrees with the Government on refinery policy. The Veba deal was a sensitive and BP feels that as soon as it knew about the oil supplies to Rhodesia it did the right thing in informing the Government, despite some opposition from its partner, Shell.

Officials at BP are saying privately that one of the chief allegations—that the company failed to consult the Government over arrangements made with the French for drilling in the South-west approaches—is untrue.

It is believed that Sir David Steel, the chairman, now has a two-page list of contacts between the Government and the company on the French arrangements.

These go back to 1970 and initially were perfectly simple. BP, Royal Dutch/Shell and Esso declared an area of mutual interest spanning the meridian line in the South-west approaches. BP was to share exploration of blocks on the French side in return for the French sharing of blocks with BP on the British side.

Problems arose because of the Government's decision to give the British National Oil Corporation 51 per cent participation in all blocks. The French naturally saw this as a limiting of their own freedom of action.

The French were mollified by being included in block 3/14B at the same time off East Shetland.

The South-west approaches blocks were the last to be notified under the fifth round of licensing, and this reflects on comments from the Department of Energy last week that BP was the most difficult company to deal with.

BP is required to consult the Government on matters affecting foreign policy. Under certain circumstances the two Government-appointed members of BP's board can veto decisions.

Conciliator proposes TUC-linked clearing
banks union to exclude 'anomalous' ASTMS

By Christopher Thomas

The demise of the two main unions in English clearing banks was signalled in an independent report published yesterday.

The end of the National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) and the Confederation of Bank Staff Associations, was recommended by Dr Tom Johnston after a six-month study into the inter-union strife afflicting the "clearers".

He recommended that Nube and the staff associations at Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays, should form a new body called the Clearing Banks Union, which would be part of a wider body affiliated to the Trades Union Congress.

Dr Johnston, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission in Scotland, has left the TUC with the onerous task of deciding what should happen to the 4,500 members in Midland Bank belonging to the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

He said bluntly that the ASTMS presence in Midland was "an anomaly", and without actually saying so left the impression that the union's involvement in the English clearing banks was more harmful than helpful.

TUC membership is something that Dr Johnston is unequivocal in supporting. That might go against the grain for many staff association members. He makes it clear that the Confederation of Bank Staff Associations, the umbrella body for staff associations at Lloyds, National Westminster and Barclays, would have no future role to play and should wind up.

The idea is for a three-tier structure with the Clearing Banks Union in the middle, with a "house union" structure underneath and a wider body, embracing members outside the clearers, beyond that.

The separate unions will consider the report and meet Dr Johnston in a month. Dr Johnston, who is on the list of conciliators of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, said in his report that the problem had their roots deep in the history of banking. A solution required a root-and-branch approach, "a psychological leap forward, an act of faith, if not of recklessness".

A merger into the Clearing Banks Union would require approval by a members' ballot under the terms of the 1964 Act on trade union amalgamations.

Under the plans, the new union would have central powers to negotiate on national industrial matters, but domestic "sections" of the union would have scope to bargain on remaining issues.

One of the most blunt assertions of the report, even if conciliatory words are used, is that the presence of ASTMS in Midland is a severe hindrance to inter-union harmony. That ball has been thrown back into the TUC's court.

The TUC disputes committee previously has sought a way out of the impasse by suggesting that ASTMS should cease its recruitment ambitions in banking, in return for a *quid pro quo* from Nube to stay out of the insurance industry, where it has made a significant incursion by taking over the Guardian Royal Exchange staff union.

Mr Leif Mills of Nube, and Mr Aspinall of the staff associations were conciliatory in their immediate responses yesterday.

Dr Johnston, who appears to have captured the imagination of all sides, said at a press conference that the situation had reached the point where a "big bang approach" was necessary to find a way out of the impasse.

'Qualified'
audit plan
for small
companies

By Bryan Appleyard

Many more small companies will have qualified audit reports if new proposals from the accountancy profession are adopted.

The proposals suggest a new form of audit qualification designed to cover cases where a company's internal financial control is deficient.

It is designed to cover managers who are also owners. In these cases auditors are dependent on "representations from the directors where alternative confirmation of transactions was not available".

The style of the qualification suggested by the Auditing Practices Committee is designed to cover managers who are also owners. In these cases auditors are dependent on "representations from the directors where alternative confirmation of transactions was not available".

The APC felt that a full disclaimer of opinion was too strong in these circumstances and has thus adopted a paragraph which draws attention to the role of the manager/pro- prietors in providing the information.

The proposal is open for discussion until January 31 along with the other proposed auditing guidelines in the committee's "Audit Report Examples" and, if approved, would be unlikely to become a standard for at least a year.

One possible source of opposition is the Association of Certified Accountants, which earlier this year unofficially suggested a high level of audit for small companies. The association is understood to be reasonably satisfied with the wording in this latest syllabus report, but is concerned that describing it as a qualification may create problems for companies.

Financial Editor, page 29

Metal Box's American rival set to
build £15m UK can-making plant

By Edward Townsend

Continental Group of the United States, the world's largest packaging company, will start from scratch in an exclusive licensing pact with Britain's Metal Box last year, yesterday announced plans for a big investment in United Kingdom can manufacturing facilities.

The project, initially involving the building of a £15m factory—probably in North Wales—marks a new phase in the growing competition between the two companies for a larger slice of the expanding beverage can market.

It follows two moves by Metal Box into the United States since the ending of the licensing deal with the Warrenton, Ore., firm.

Continental's venture could attract significant financial assistance from the British Government, and the company has already completed "an extensive round of exploratory talks" with the Department of Industry, the Welsh Office and local authorities.

It was disclosed yesterday that the company is discussing the possibility of further aid from the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community.

An initial step Continental's newly-formed United Kingdom subsidiary, Continental Can Company (UK) has established a London office to coordinate the project.

Two or three factories are planned, the first in the Welsh area, producing two-piece cans. A spokesman said it had not yet been decided whether to use aluminium or tinplate as the raw material, but stressed that "a large amount" would be produced in Britain.

Continental had no wish to put anyone out of a job "but to take advantage of the expanding market in the United Kingdom for two-piece cans, it was stated."

Mr E. M. Jenkins, managing director of the United Kingdom subsidiary, said it was felt there would continue to be an acceptable political and economic climate in the United Kingdom and that the business and social environments were those "in which both we and the community may prosper."

During discussions with the Government, North Wales had emerged as front-runner because of financial attractiveness, the "labour atmosphere", communications, and availability of proper sites and services.

The first factory will employ about 200, and work is expected to begin early next year.

The agreement with Metal Box effectively prevented any other company manufacturing in the other's markets, and following its termination MB took a 75 per cent stake in a project in Los Angeles to manufacture two-piece Pepsi Cola cans, and paid £10.5m to take over the Ridsdon Manufacturing Company in the eastern United States.

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Late commercial buying
helps to stabilize dollar

By Caroline Asherson

The dollar fell to new lows against many currencies yesterday morning, but came back during the afternoon to close little changed from Friday.

The pound remained above \$2 throughout the day, touching a high point of \$2.013 to the pound before closing at \$2.0075, 60 points up on Friday.

Some dealers believed there was heavy official intervention by the Swiss National Bank to hold down the rise of the franc against the dollar. This helped the dollar's recovery.

The dollar's substantial advance in the last few weeks was halted late yesterday, but it is generally thought that it will rise further.

The pound picked up against the dollar, and the yen followed the franc and slipped back against the dollar after going to record heights in the morning.

The dollar began three day weak on market fears about the United States economic indicators on trade and prices this week. There was also some nervousness about President Carter's anti-inflation measures, to be unveiled today. Dealers fear that these may prove insufficient.

By the time the dollar had dropped to DM17.97, commercial buyers came in as it was felt the fall had gone too far. After wide fluctuations in the rate the dollar closed at DM18.065, 10 points weaker than on Friday.

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Talks today
on cutback
in shipyards

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent
Crucial talks on the future of Britain's shipbuilding industry at which the state-owned British Shipbuilders will outline its plans for a contraction of the industry and the force will take place in London today.

The shipbuilding committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) will have its first of a series of consultative meetings on the plan, which is due to be submitted to the Government before the end of this year.

But the confederation, which is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, will reaffirm its opposition to any compulsory redundancies. It is prepared only to give qualified approval to voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

But ES executives will underline the serious position it is facing, with new orders now barely at a trickle despite the influx of work last year which was brought in by the provision of nearly £60m of subsidies from the Shipbuilding Intervention Fund.

A new fund of £85m has been allocated for this year, and although the marketing teams of BS have been scouring the world for orders, so far the results have been negligible.

Some BS yards face the prospect of running out of work within months, and only the phasing of contracts for the Royal Navy has managed to stave off redundancies earlier.

Following the introduction of a special early retirement scheme, about 3,000 workers have left since nationalization last July.

Mr Sandy Scott, assistant general secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, said last night: "Our policy is quite clear. We are opposed to compulsory redundancy."

In this case, however, the issues involved concerned criminal violations and the Justice Department concluded that it was sufficient to obtain a guilty plea from Westinghouse on all 30 counts and an agreement by the corporation to pay a fine of \$10,000 on each separate charge.

The charges concern specific Westinghouse actions and statements between mid-1975 and mid-1977, but under the agreement, Justice should not disclose the identity of the foreign nation, the recipient or the agents or employees involved.

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BA shares
£8m profit
on low fares
to New York

By Arthur Reed

The three major airlines flying between London and New York—British Airways, PanAm and Trans World—earned £8m revenue from cheap fares during four months this summer, most of which was profit, Mr Gerry Draper, director of commercial operations for British Airways, said yesterday.

Between April and July, the number of seats offered by all scheduled airlines on the route, including Laker, increased by 31 per cent, and passengers carried by 52 per cent. Percentage of seats filled increased from 67.8 in 1977 to 73.5.

Mr Draper's figures entirely justify the move towards cheap fares begun 12 months ago by Sir Freddie Laker with a £50 single Skytrain ticket between London and New York. Up to that time the big airlines had resisted any move towards low fares, but were forced to follow the Laker example with their own standby and budget tickets.

British Airways' own estimates for the whole summer were that traffic between Britain and the United States, excluding the Laker Skytrain, should be up by 58 per cent. With Skytrain included, the increase would be 49 per cent.

Speaking in Washington at the Air Transportation Research International Forum, Mr Draper said that by their very nature standby fares had been and could remain profitable, as long as capacity was not mounted specifically for this type of traffic.

Market research by British Airways indicated that 45 per cent of standby passengers were on holiday, 25 per cent visiting friends and relatives, and 11 per cent on business.

Passengers on the New York route were asked what their alternative plans would have been.

Nine per cent said they would have gone by charter, 15 per cent would not have flown at all, and 11 per cent would have paid higher fares.

British Airways research indicated that world passenger traffic would increase at a mean rate of between 6 and 8 per cent a year over the next 10 years. The airline would have to carry twice as many passengers as today, with no increase in staff.

More productive aircraft, like the stretched 747, higher-density seating on many routes, seat factors at least 10 per cent above conventional scheduled service levels, and aircraft utilization improvements of around 10 per cent would be needed.

Mr Draper said that in the face of intense demand for cheap travel, they were entitled to ask the government authorities imposing jet flying bans to improve productivity by increasing the operating day for those aircraft conforming to new noise regulations.

"We estimate that an additional hour at the beginning and end of the day at Heathrow alone would produce up to £2m a year."

PanAm yesterday reported record earnings of \$101.3m for the third quarter.

DCM to explain
£3m loss despite
profit forecast

Dunbe-Corbet-Marx is to meet institutional shareholders at the end of the week in an attempt to explain the background to the announcement last Thursday of a £3m pre-tax interim loss.

Shareholders are known to be distressed by the sudden reversal of the toy manufacturer's recent optimism, so their questioning is expected to be searching, and tighter financial controls are believed to be high on the agenda.

In the meantime, the Stock Exchange is conducting a routine monitor of the share price, full fall of the results, but DCM itself is convinced that there had not been any leak of inside information to prompt a detailed inquiry.

Financial News, page 31

How the markets moved

The Times index: 219.10-1.62
The FT index: 495.6-4.6

Rises

Allied Irish	10p to 22½p
Bank of Ireland	13p to 44½p
Brown Shipley	5p to 26½p
Camellia Ind	5p to 32½p
Carroll J	5p to 11½p
Highland	5p to 14½p
Irish Distillers	6p to 19½p
Lee Cooper	10p to 18½p

Falls

Anglo Am Corp	12p to 33½p
BP	12p to 89½p
Broken Hill	20p to 66½p
Cole R H	12p to 104p
De Beers Ltd	12p to 38½p
De Beers Ind	10p to 60½p

Equities fell quietly back. Gilt-edged securities eased lower. Dollar premium: 79.5 per cent (effective rate 38.38 per cent). Sterling rose by 60 points to \$2.0075. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.1.

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
buys	sells
Australia \$	1.76
Austria Sch	25.80
Belgium Fr	63.50
Canada \$	2.44
Denmark Kr	10.59
Finland Mk	8.12
France Fr	3.68
Germany Dm	3.79
Greece Dr	74.90
Hongkong \$	9.65
Italy L	1695.00
Japan Yen	3

EMS will not work, top economists tell Bonn

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Oct 23

West Germany's five leading economic research institutes today gave warning that conditions for establishing a European Monetary System, including all the members of the EEC, are less favourable now than in 1972 when the European joint fiat was set up.

In their autumn report on the West German and world economies, the institutes pointed out that national inflation rates inside the Community at present range from 2.5 to 12 per cent, while in 1972 the highest rate was 8 per cent and the lowest 5 per cent.

The institutes—from West Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Kiel and Essen—said quite flatly there was no chance of the EEC member states reducing the gap between their inflation rates by a sufficient amount in the foreseeable future to make the proposed EMS work.

It appears from the report that the institutes see a particular danger in the credit facilities proposed for the EMS. They argue that the more generous these are the less pressure will be exerted on countries with high inflation to introduce domestic stabilization policies.

Instead, the institutes claim, the central rates of the individual currencies will be changed so frequently as to contradict the aim of stabilizing exchange rates, while failure to change rates in time would create tensions leading to collapse of the system.

Although the institutes are private organizations, their autumn report is produced specifically as a policy aid for the West German Government. Hence their very negative remarks on EMS are likely to embarrass Herr Helmut Schmidt, West Germany's Chancellor.

The institutes' remarks on the German economy itself are more in line with Bonn Government thinking. While forecasting that the German economy should grow next year by around 4 per cent in real terms, the institutes do not rule out a slowdown after 1979. Acknowledging that extraordinary forces have gained the upper hand in Germany since the middle of the year, they see no evidence yet to suggest that the economy has become self-sustaining.

The number of employed people is forecast to rise by about 100,000 next year, but because more young people will be coming on to the labour market, the number of unemployed is seen as likely to decline on average by only 50,000 from just under one million this year.

CBI renews protest on price control

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Employers restated yesterday their bitter opposition to any scheme which would add to price controls. Tougher price measures, with shorter working hours and higher wages for the lower-paid, are among the demands which Trades Union Congress leaders are believed to be urging as part of a compromise to replace the Government's 5 per cent pay limit.

TUC leaders are to meet Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor, tomorrow for another round of talks on pay policy. On Thursday it is the turn of the employers, with a Confederation of British Industry delegation led by Sir John Methven, the director-general, to put its view to the Government.

Sir John made it clear in speaking at a House of Commons lunch yesterday that any moves to strengthen price restrictions would be strongly resisted. "If prices are

screwed down further, it will mean less investment, less expansion, less growth and fewer jobs." Industrialists already were gravely concerned about low profits which were averaging about one-third of the equivalent levels of 10 years ago.

The CBI has always resented any interference in market prices. It considers that Price Commission intervention distorts normal competitive forces. Industrialists resent even more the demands on management time and resources imposed by a Price Commission investigation.

The scrutiny already takes in production and efficiency, and Commission investigators approach departments within the organization in preparing their report. Investigations normally are triggered by a firm's application to put up its prices, but the Commission also may act on a directive issued by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to make a sector examination which may be

confined to a limited number of named market leaders.

According to Sir John yesterday: "Competition and the stopping of restrictive practices by the unions are the main keys to greater efficiency not the Price Commission."

In making his most outspoken public attack on the unions' approach to pay policy, he said: "We all want to see freedom on price-bargaining as well as freedom on wages, but we can only afford such freedoms if everyone acts with moderation."

No one, not Government, not employers, not managers, not unions, can contract out of helping to get this country back on its economic feet. But when I hear some trade union leaders talk, I sometimes think that far from nursing the United Kingdom back to economic health, the kind of medicine which they are prescribing will put the patient flat on its back again."



Mr. William Rodgers; no statement after meeting AUEW officials.

Europe wants permanent curbs on foreign clothing

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Europe's clothing manufacturers have called on the EEC Commission to impose permanent restrictions on imports from state trading countries of Eastern Europe and on certain Third World developing countries.

The request has been made by the European Clothing Industry Federation in a detailed report to the Commission following publication earlier this year of general guidelines for the development of an EEC policy for the textiles and clothing industry.

In its paper the federation said that free trade and development of trade in articles of clothing had to be encouraged between industrialized countries where production costs were comparable, with the ultimate aim of abolishing trade barriers between those countries.

The organization noted that progressive harmonization and in the longer term the reciprocal abolition of tariff and non-tariff barriers between those countries represented a high priority objective. Equally, said the federation, it was important that all forms of

abnormal competition which could affect the world market should be kept under strict surveillance.

In its submission the organization called for permanent curbs of trade by state trading countries whose arbitrarily-fixed prices avoided all laws and market mechanisms.

It also wants similar curbs on certain developing countries where "in reality, economic and technical progress has not brought an end to the policy of low salaries and intensive exploitation of the labour force."

Application of the Multi-Fibre Arrangements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade had partially brought a halt to the havoc caused by abnormal competition, and resulted in a greater degree of confidence being re-established in the market.

"This confidence should be reinforced and assured beyond 1982 and the period of the bilateral agreements (negotiated under the MFA) because the period covered is insufficient to create a climate conducive to the investment vital for the process of necessary adaptation and innovation," the federation added.

Austria orders £9m Plessey flight system

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

In the face of intense competition from European and United States companies, Plessey Radar have won a contract worth £9m to provide a radar and flight data processing system for the entire Austrian flight information region.

Dr Friedrich Lang, president of the Austrian Federal Office of Civil Aviation, said at the signing of the contract that the increasing number of aircraft flying over Austria had led to the requirement for a new centre with a modern and efficient system.

The data processing system to be installed by Plessey will handle over half a million aircraft movements a year, and will be designed to meet future growth. Provision is being made for computer-to-computer connections with air traffic control centres in adjoining flight regions.

A Plessey team is to be resident in Vienna throughout the contract, working closely with the FOCA and Elin-Union, of Austria, a major subcontractor.

Bergen police end Reksten tax inquiry

Oslo, Oct 23.—Bergen police have now completed the investigation into the alleged tax evasion of the Norwegian shipowner Hilmar Reksten. Their report has been sent to the Bank of Norway and to the Director of Taxes. From there the case will be sent on to the Attorney-General.

The report recommends that an action should be brought against Mr Reksten in accordance with the Norwegian tax and currency regulations. Mr Reksten is charged with

tax evasion of approximately 500m Norwegian kroner (about £50.2m) between 1967 and 1975, and this currency transfer is supposed to involve several foreign companies including the Intercontinental Chartering and Shipping Corporation.

Mr Reksten has also been charged with transference of shares and interests from the British company Shipping and Industrial Holdings to Italy without the consent of the Bank of Norway or the Bank of Norway or the Norwegian Ministry of Trade.

This transfer corresponds to a fleet of some three million deadweight tonnes. This section of the charge has now been altered from that of June 4, 1976 but it has not yet been explained what this change implies.

Mr Reksten, who is 81, has been called in only one for questioning, and this interview lasted barely 15 minutes. It is now considered almost certain that he will be prosecuted, but the final decision will have to be made by the Attorney-General.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cost of surrendering a life policy

From the Chairman of the Life Offices' Association

Sir, I am surprised, and disappointed, by some of the comments made in a press release by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, reported in your edition of October 20, concerning insurance companies and the surrender of life policies.

In particular, Mr Borrie failed to acknowledge the important steps which, in his knowledge, have already been taken by the association and the life associations to make the surrender of life policies a more attractive proposition.

Section 3 of the statement of long term insurance practice, which was voluntarily agreed by the associations and announced in Parliament in July last year, seeks to ensure that prospective policyholders will be under no doubt as to what is involved when taking out a life insurance policy. The

association's leaflet, "Should I Surrender?" has been distributed widely up and down the country, including Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Mr Borrie, when referring to life insurance, asked the insurance associations to look hard at the commission system so as to ensure that customers get more impartial and balanced advice. The change which he seeks was, in fact, introduced more than two years ago.

I am hoping to arrange a meeting with Mr Borrie, at which I will take up a number of other points raised in his statement, including the doubtful validity of the figures he quoted. I shall hope to impress on him the fact that the sort of sensational statement he has made only serves to demoralize those who are working hard to improve the standards in our industry.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. SHARMAN,
Chairman, Life Offices' Association
Queen Street, EC4N 1TP.
October 20.

Japan's car strategy

From Mr W. H. Jones

Sir, David Felton's article ("Blowing away the smoke-screen over Japanese car imports," *The Times*, October 16), while interesting in cataloguing the development of negotiations between the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers' Association (JAMA) over the level of imports to the United Kingdom, creates its own particular smoke-screen.

Surely the simple fact is that the British industry is weak because of consistent problems with productivity and supply while the central issue is whether its long term interests will be served best by protectionism or by exposure to international competition.

Undoubtedly, if the Japanese wish to avoid access markets taking the former view, they must take positive action to reduce the potency of non-tariff barriers in their home market. Nevertheless, no one could argue seriously that the British manufacturers have aggressively tested these barriers until very recently.

Perhaps, dare I say it, the British industry might learn from the Japanese who have pursued a sensible strategy of concentration on key markets. When Japan turned towards Europe, having developed the Asian and North American markets, they wisely concentrated their efforts on countries with no home industry or, as in the case of Britain, a weak and disorganized one.

Thus it was that by 1976 they held a 28, 22, 13, 13, 16 and 15 per cent share of the Norwegian, Finnish, Portuguese, Belgian, Danish and Dutch markets, respectively, in addition to the 9 per cent share of the United Kingdom market. It only the British industry seemed capable of "planning and executing a deliberate onslaught" on overseas markets, we might not be so sensitive to fractional variations in Japanese market share here.

W. H. JONES,
The University of Aston
Management Centre,
Birmingham B4 6TE.

The small print pitfall on a company credit card

From Mr J. W. Bell

Sir, I wonder just how many of your readers who have a company credit card realize that should their company default on the payment for any reason, including liquidation, this credit card company wastes no time in demanding payment from the individual card holder.

I now find that, in the form I signed giving my specimen signature, the small print states that individual card holders are jointly and severally liable for charges incurred under the card.

In my case I have been threatened with legal action to recover from me the sum of approximately £1,900, following use of my American Express Company credit card while on an extended business trip to the United States, before my

employer put the company into voluntary liquidation.

The precipitate action by American Express before even an interim dividend has been distributed to the creditors has forced me to settle the full amount claimed for an account from which I received no personal benefit.

As an employee, I was only able to obtain the same information on the financial standing of my employer as the credit card company presumably did before issuing a card facility to the company for its employees, but in the final reckoning it has been proved that the individual holder is responsible.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. BELL,
7 Dacre Gardens,
Chigwell,
Essex, IG7 5HH.

Letting the landlord have more of his rent

From Mr C. G. M. Miller

Sir, There is in practical terms surely no need for the rent collecting agent to "penalize" the owner who is abroad by deducting tax at the full standard rate.

While I do not, unlike Mr John Birch (October 17), have the benefit of being "something of an expert in this field," the full rate can properly be reduced by reference to the known allowances which offset

the profit on the letting, namely the appropriate rates, repairs, insurances and, indeed, Mr Birch's own charges for rent collection.

Thus if he charges 10 per cent with the usual allowance for the repairs of 10 per cent on the rent exclusive of rates (or the actual equivalent expenditure) the effective rate is considerably reduced from 33 per cent to 25 per cent, or less, in many instances.

The minimum difference of 8 per cent therefore represents a very substantial loss of working capital for the owner for probably quite a long period and an unacceptable profit on interest for the agent.

To compound matters, it's bound to be hidden from the client!
GREENVILLE MILLER,
Consultant Surveyor,
21 Edington Place,
Grove, Warrage.

We may have shocked some people with our growth



This generator rests on langes and brackets of Permali densified wood laminates.

BTR play an important part in the development of heavy electrical equipment through insulation products such as Permali laminates. These help to support and brace the stator windings of large turbo-generators. Expanding use of reinforced laminates has contributed greatly to our growth in recent years.

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The Times Veuve Clicquot Award. Business Woman of The Year.

Do you know an outstanding business woman who could win this Award?

The Times and Veuve Clicquot are searching for the Business Woman of The Year. Although it is no longer exclusively a man's world this is still the only accolade awarded to women who, even today, may be regarded as trail blazers.

Women are now accepted by their male colleagues as professionals and equals but for them the climb to the top is arguably a harder one.

In the final analysis, success is the ability to be powerful, dynamic, innovative, tough and yet, above all, the ability to remain feminine.

The Clicquot Inspiration

La Veuve Clicquot was a vivacious young widow and the inspiration behind the Award. Possibly the first female 'tycoon', Madame Clicquot became a successful entrepreneur and adventurous exporter. She was a key figure in the perfection of the world's most exciting wine and with her bubbling champagne she thwarted Napoleon, seduced the Russian Court and laid the foundations for one of the world's leading Champagne Houses.

A Successor

Madame Clicquot had a charisma built on business and commerce and she still lives on every time her wine is affectionately called for as 'The Widow'. The panel is searching for a woman who is the modern image of this nineteenth century business woman.

Her business is irrelevant. Her achievements, her power, her inventiveness, her enterprise are all the ingredients the panel will consider when making its decision.

Nominations

Completed entries should give the fullest information and may be accompanied by press cuttings and relevant background material.

Nominations can be from anyone and previous entrants may be nominated again for 1978.

Completed forms should be returned to Kerry Falcon, 'Business Woman Award', PO Box 7 New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ.

Closing date for entries is November 10th, 1978.

Champagne Prizes

Two cases of Veuve Clicquot Champagne will go to the person who nominates the winner and the nominators of all finalists will be invited to a champagne presentation in The Times Boardroom.

The Award

The Times Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of The Year will receive:

A vine to be named after her in the world-famous Clicquot vineyards.

An expenses-paid visit to Rheims for two for the christening of the vine.

The winner will become Une Amie de La Veuve. At a traditional ceremony in the Clicquot caves, she will be made one of a select circle of friends of the House who receive a bottle of 'The Widow' on every birthday.

A silver replica of Madame Clicquot's own 'tastevin'.

A case of La Grande Dame—a very special vintage champagne from the vineyards owned by La Veuve Clicquot during her lifetime.

The presentation of the Award will be made at a reception in the Boardroom of The Times Newspaper.

THE TIMES
Veuve Clicquot
Business Woman of The Year 1978.

I nominate	Her company is
Her status	My reasons for nominating her are as follows
<p>Nominator's name</p> <p>Address</p> <p>Daytime telephone number</p>	

- Rules:
1. The woman nominated must be based in the U.K.
 2. Times Newspapers Limited and Veuve Clicquot Champagne employees and their relatives may not enter.
 3. The decision of the panel of judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
 4. Closing date of the Award: 10th November 1978. Winners will be announced in The Times Business News shortly after wards.
 5. No names will be quoted without prior consent.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

In defence of the market place

Of all the investment managers in London, few can be as well placed to know about the dangers of posturing on this subject as one of the joint chiefs of the investment department at the Prudential. So Peter Moody's decision to fly a few kites at last night's meeting of the Institute of Actuaries was a brave one, though the novelties came fast enough to produce a few crossed lines.

Mr Moody's theme, essentially, was that the London market—or at any rate the institutional investors who form the greater part of it—is sufficient unto itself, sufficiently flexible, that is, to absorb the strain imposed by a flood of cash from insurance companies and pension funds; sufficiently sensible to resist the inducements to invest (in gilts, for instance) against the interests of the policyholders and pensioners on whose behalf the institutional managers act; and sufficiently disinterested to run its affairs with reasonable honesty without interference from any outside body.

He held that the great regulator of prices in the market was the cost of money; that while interest rates were allowed to move in relative freedom (notwithstanding that, in some "grooming" from the authorities), prices of equities, gilts and property would find a reasonable relationship to one another whatever the weight of money pursuing any one sector; and that agitation over the increasing power of the institutions in the market was therefore misplaced. He also argued that there was no such thing as an "institutional" strike in the autumn of 1976 and the spring of 1978, when the government tried to sell gilts without success. On the contrary, he argued that the institutions' withdrawal from the market then reflected individual actions which in total represented a considerable weight of informed opinion about the situation in the United Kingdom.

Now, however, refreshing it may be to see the institutions emerging from the hunkers built up over the years and fighting for free enterprise, there are one or two problems to this scenario. For a start, however free from restriction in making their investment decisions within the United Kingdom, all investors are still limited in their choice by the existence of the exchange control regulations. As Mr Moody himself agrees, if they were lifted there would be a flood of money leaving Britain for investment abroad; and while there is no doubt that equilibrium would be restored sooner or later, by means, inter alia, of his regulator, interest rates, the damage in the meantime could be considerable.

The same possibility for distortion still exists within the United Kingdom markets which he was discussing. Leaving aside any question of the influence of dividend controls, and of the extent to which the "grooming" of interest rates by the authorities has turned into their direction, particularly since suspension of the minimum lending rate formula, there is the question of what the weight of money does to a particular sector which has caught fund managers' attention. Sooner or later equilibrium will certainly be restored, but in all probability prices within that sector will plummet once the buying dries up. This is not a perfect market, in theory or in practice.

Accountants Auditing the small company

The view from within the accountancy profession that small company audits are different in kind to large company audits has surfaced again. This time the Auditing Practices Committee is suggesting a form of qualified report to cope with companies in which managers who are also proprietors are the sole source of information.

This is nothing like as drastic as the originally canvassed proposals for an audit review—a very diluted version of the present process—but it nevertheless signals the continuing awareness that "true and fair" for a large public company with sophisticated controls means something very different when applied to a small "seat-of-the-pants" operation.

The problem is the use of the word "qualification". The suggested wording does make it clear that nothing is necessarily wrong but if the proposal is passed, the accountants will have a substantial education job on their hands to establish that this kind of qualification does not carry the same overtones as that of a conventional qualification by an auditor.

So in a wider context the proposal does amount to an official statement that small companies are different without changing the hallowed auditing procedures. Though the idea of changing these founded last time, it is clear that, backed by EEC divisions between public and private companies, the accountants will eventually have to find some way of making the distinction.

Mothercare

Teething problems in America

Interim results from Mothercare yesterday were dominated by problems in America and sent the shares sliding 8p to 160p after what has already proved a long period of under-performance.

Mothercare's decision to invade the American market may yet prove to be one of the most brilliant retailing moves of the 1970s, but for the moment it is a saga of mishaps and wrong decisions.

In the first half a loss of over 10m in the United States—more than double the group's own projections—has undermined



Mr Selim Zilkha, chairman and managing director of Mothercare.

an impressive performance in the United Kingdom and Europe to leave profits only 9 per cent up at just over £7m.

The difficulty has been in the 100-strong Mother-to-be chain in the United States, which the group bought in 1976. Here bad buying decisions for spring and summer left stocks high and dry and no doubt cost Mothercare customers. Meanwhile the first mail order catalogue launched in January went down badly, and the 43 Mothercare shops continued to disappoint.

Corrective action has been taken on two fronts through strengthening the buying team and producing a more modest autumn catalogue, while the Mothercare stores have in recent weeks at last shown signs of proving their worth. Even so it is significant that the board has once again postponed hopes of achieving break-even in the United States this time to March 1981 against the earlier prediction of 1980.

At home a near-20 per cent sales increase to £50m, including volume growth of almost 10 per cent and a profits rise of almost a quarter to £7.3m provide firm evidence of continuing growth potential on this side of the Atlantic. At the same time Europe, where sales increased by a half and profits rose 36 per cent to £781,000 is now beginning to do well.

Prospects of United States losses rising to as much as £16m this year point to profits of around £16m against earlier market hopes of over £17.5m. This would provide a fully-taxed p/e ratio of around 13—the sector average—while the yield would be around 3 per cent.

Mothercare's shares could be vulnerable to United States difficulties in the short-term, but it is still too early to write-off hopes of a potentially important American breakthrough. For that reason the shares will find plenty of supporters at anything much below the current price.

It is a great pity that the consultations on industrial democracy which have taken place since the publication of the Government's White Paper in March have been held in an election climate. For the issue is far too important to be clouded by party politics.

Civil servants responsible for drafting the legislation, which is expected to be included in the Queen's Speech next month, blundered not a little in their eagerness to construct a reaction to the far. But another reason could be that not enough has been done to establish a common understanding of the underlying aims and objectives.

It was hoped that the co-operation of the White Paper would have encouraged a full discussion of the benefits as well as the difficulties. But this does not seem to have happened.

Instead, the participants have, if anything, hardened the already rigid attitudes taken up in response to the Bullock committee report on whose recommendations the Government based its proposals.

On the one side, private sector workers have been urged to accept the compulsory introduction of employee directorships. Representative bodies like the Confederation of British Industry continue to express total and absolute opposition to any legislation which seeks to impose directors from any source on company boards without the agreement of shareholders.

On the other side, the Trades Union Congress wants union representatives to be entitled to boardroom seats by no later than 1982. It considers that legislation is essential to trigger the process—within nationalised industries and that practical difficulties and conflicts can be ironed out during the process of implementation.

What does not appear in the formal Bullock submissions made by the two sides is the great deal of common ground which in fact lies between them. The Bullock committee's terms of reference (and they have been much criticised for this) meant that its recommendations concentrated on the "how" rather than the "why" of employee representation on company boards. The debate ever since has concentrated on the mechanisms by which this might be achieved without first

establishing a basis of agreement as to its desirability.

The result has been to exacerbate rather than heal the fundamental differences between the approach of trade unions and that of industrialists to common aims such as industrial revitalization, growth, improved quality of life and full employment. This is clearly apparent in, for example, the reactions to the Government's proposals that employers should be put under an obligation to discuss any aspect of corporate strategy which affects the employees of the business before decisions are made.

Both the CBI and the TUC believe that reforms are urgently needed. The CBI's first national conference last year passed a resolution that called for "practical initiatives to give all employees rights of information, consultation over decisions affecting them, and of access to the people making those decisions at whatever level."

This goes a long way towards meeting the TUC's viewpoint that workers should have a right to information about their conditions of employment and the factors such as productivity, efficiency and profits affecting their earnings in order that they can negotiate and negotiate improvements.

Neither side would argue with the Government's objective

Non-unionists

of achieving a "positive partnership between management and workers rather than defensive coexistence".

But instead of attempting to reconcile these aims, the debate has concentrated on divisive arguments such as those for and against the so-called "single channel" for representation of such information. The Bullock committee's recommendation, endorsed in the White Paper, is to build on the established framework set up by the unions for collective bargaining purposes.

The Government's proposals also make provision for non-union employees either by their admission to the main consultative committee or by the establishment of parallel arrangements.

By insisting that both categories of employee have the same statutory rights, the CBI

risks losing the benefits that a properly constituted joint representation committee (JRC) consisting of representatives of all the trade unions in a company could bring to large sections of industry.

It also ignores the considerable adjustments which would have to be made by the unions themselves in order to form such a committee.

Without some such channel of communication at company level there is little hope of reconciling more fundamental differences. Despite large shifts during the past decade, the traditional British trade union attitude that there is a basic conflict of interest between the workers and the owners of capital is still very prevalent and prevents any participation in management decisions.

The more flexible approach, taken by the TUC in its evidence to the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations as early as 1966 (that this conflict of interest is not necessarily an overriding obstacle to worker participation) has by no means spread to all TUC rank and file members.

Industrialists are not alone in their unease about sharing board decisions on issues such as ownership and disposition of capital with union-nominated directors who may be openly opposed in the private enterprise system. Many trade unionists are worried about the implications of their representatives becoming full coalition partners in business.

Union reservations about worker directors were highlighted at the weekend by Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association. In his comments on the White Paper submitted to the Department of Industry, Mr Lyons says his union is not convinced that there is widespread demand for worker directors and that it doubts whether they are desirable at the moment.

It is generally recognized that boardroom representation will mean a fundamental shift in union attitudes to industrial representation, from one of conflict to one of partnership with employers.

If some of the traditional underlying suspicions can be at least aired during the progress of the proposed legislation through Parliament, there is some hope of a workable understanding being reached. The fear is that attitudes may

already have hardened too much for constructive discussions to take place.

Unfortunately the probability of full discussion is lessened by the timing. Introduction of the legislation towards the end of the life of the Government means that opponents are likely merely to use delaying tactics in the expectation that the issue will again become lost in an impending general election.

Already, the judgment of experienced parliamentary observers seems that there is little likelihood that a Bill can be introduced by the Government's original target of

Suspicious

January. The Cabinet which has been much preoccupied with more immediate problems such as pay and monetary policy has hardly debated the issues. Ministers remain divided on key elements such as the rights of appeal and the structure of joint representation committees.

There is as yet insufficient evidence of the benefits of worker participation on the boards of nationalised industries to give any sort of lead to the private sector. Little has been heard about the results of the request in the White Paper, *The Nationalised Industries* (and repeated a month later in the industrial relations proposals), for the chairman to consult with all the unions in each industry and to make joint proposals for improvement in consultation and participation.

If anything, the experiences of the British Steel Corporation and the Post Office, the two principal pioneers in the state-owned sector, have highlighted the difficulties.

For example, although the Union of Post Office Workers backed the corporation's experiment in industrial democracy at its conference in May, delegates nevertheless strongly criticised their fellow members' support for Post Office plans on such matters as restoration of Sunday collections which were contrary to union policy.

This illustrates the confusion which might arise from worker director roles as representatives of employees rather than delegates who could be mandated to vote in a specific way.

The experience of the British Steel Corporation is an object lesson of the practical basic

problems involved in choosing worker directors even where there is full management acquiescence and in a heavily unionised sector. It was only with an undignified last-minute scramble that the TUC's steel committee managed by July/August to fill the six trade union seats on the BSC's board which it had been offered in March.

Progress towards the appointment of employee representatives on the boards of other nationalised industries has been slow, despite the Government's intention that they should set an example to the private sector.

There is, for instance, no agreement between the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen over participation on the British Railways Board. The British Airports Authority has yet to fill the two vacancies for union-nominated worker directors which it agreed to in July.

There are, at the same time, some considerable advances being made on the consultative front. Independent research commissioned by the CBI this year showed that over 70 per cent of large member companies operated consultative arrangements giving employees rights to information and discussion. It also showed that approximately one in 10 CBI member companies have participation agreements which provide for worker representation further up the management chain.

The CBI did in fact propose some fall-back legislation to encourage employee participation in its evidence to the Bullock committee. The CBI's proposals, however, stop at below board level and are conditional on the provision of maximum flexibility. They therefore do not provide the same incentives for unions to sit down together and work out a common approach to the CBI's proposals.

The CBI, however, did not rule out the possibility of board level representation provided that it was reached voluntarily and with the agreement of shareholders, management and employees.

Olive branches such as these are in danger of being lost in the acrimony with which industrialists viewed the report's recommendations. They have not been recovered by the White Paper which the CBI has categorically rejected.

Patricia Tisdall

Gordon Phillips

Blowing the dust off company records



Mobile filing record system at Lloyd's Register of Shipping, London.

vestment returns, rates of turnover, and issues and balance sheets showing cash flow problems.

Archivists have had to become more professional. They can no longer be simply the passive custodians of dusty files. One of the bodies to which they look for help is the Business Archives Council, founded in 1934, which encourages business organizations to preserve their records and make them accessible to scholarship.

The council has become increasingly involved in modern records management and acts as a forum for discussion of the best methods of handling contemporary archives as well as preserving historical records.

These records are a primary source for understanding the growth of our industrial and commercial society. In 1975 the council set up a Business Records Advisory Service, to advise businessmen on the orderly arrangement of records and the rational, professional disposal of records without loss of important information after their legal and commercial value has ceased.

As well as providing professional advice the service also helps to locate and survey records of historical interest.

By monitoring the national

press for news of the closure of old-established firms, moves to new premises or word of extensive modernization schemes, rescue operations are mounted to save records in danger of destruction. The advisory service either takes action itself or alerts other agencies which might be expected to take action based on their more detailed knowledge.

Increasing interest in the corporate character of modern economies and associated dominance of large conglomerates has meant that great

emphasis is placed on the managerial aspects of business. This has led to a small growth industry in the publication of company histories. Pioneering this field in the United Kingdom was *The History of Unilever*. From these studies themes of more general relevance have been developed, such as the relationship between individual industrial sectors and the performance of the economy as a whole.

Much important work is now being done at the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick. Its special brief is labour history and industrial relations and deposits of papers include the records of trade unions, politicians, pressure groups.

Ironically two areas of the business world which are most poorly served by historical records are publishing and advertising, yet even here protective measures are under way. The archives of British publishing are appearing in microform and the History of Advertising Trust is also gathering momentum.

The worst offender is perhaps Fleet Street, where practically no effort is made in busy offices to understand that background memoranda to today's news are invaluable to the historian.

The Author is the Archivist of The Times.

Business Diary: Harley Street and the £127 telex bill

Accounts offices in London over the past week or so have been receiving bills asking for £127 in return for inclusion in an international telex directory. Complaints to government departments followed and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection set its sights on trying to find out who was behind the bills.

Business Diary did its own sleuthing and found the bill was sent out without his knowledge and that he was severing all connection with his principals.

The Unsolicited Goods and Services Act of 1971 was enacted to protect the public from receiving pieces of paper which, unless closely scrutinized, can look like a demand for payment.

This most recent example, which comes from Directories Public of 25 Harley Street, London, W1, is extremely professional and contains a tear-off National Giro slip at the bottom for direct payment into Directories Public's account at National Westminster Bank's branch in Regent Street.

Hayman, a Canadian who has lived in London for more than 40 years, told me: "I was absolutely horrified when I saw this. I was led to believe that I would go out with a covering letter which would have explained that it was only an

invitation to have an entry in the directory."

The people behind the exercise are all based in the continent and Hayman, a retired insurance broker, says he dealt with a Mr Neumas whose offices are in Vienna.

"I was approached to become the United Kingdom director of the company registered in London. I checked on him with a solicitor friend in Vienna and the report came back that he was a perfectly respectable person."

"He came over to this country to see me and while he was here he must have posted the first batch without my knowledge. I had insisted that I had to see the form of the thing before it went out," Hayman told me.

He said that he did not really

expect to do any work as a director but had been busy over the past few days checking mail as it came into the office and returning cheques. So far more than 40 companies have sent in cheques and Hayman says that they have all been returned.

"I have spoken on the telephone to Neumas and given him an ultimatum: either the company is liquidated or he finds himself another director. I am severing all connection with the company but only after all the replies have stopped coming in and all the cheques have been returned," Hayman said.

He said the directory had been published abroad but this was the first time that United Kingdom subscribers were to be approached for inclusion, and

he was aware that in its present form the "bill" may run foul of the law.

He asserted that he had told Neumas that it should be cleared by a lawyer in this country before it was sent out.

Despite the intriguing format of the "bill" it is doubtful whether prospective entrants would have gained any real value from paying their £127 as the Post Office provides a Telex Directory for the United Kingdom free as do most other national postal organizations in Europe.

The long and often controversial political career of Nelson Rockefeller ended in January last year when the Vice-President of the United States realized that the time had come to make way for younger men.

This raised two problems for the always energetic Rockefeller. How should he spend the time and what should he do with his magnificent mansion and 25 acres of prime property in the best area of Washington.

To recent months the heir to one of the biggest oil fortunes ever decided for the first time to go into business for himself. Rockefeller is selling the superb collection of pictures, sculpture and ornaments and has decided to find skilled artists to make reproductions of the originals.

This has now been done and Mr Rockefeller is selling the copies through a selling company. Not surprisingly business is booming.

Adding to the Rockefeller wealth is the money from the sale of his Washington pro-

perty, a beautiful mansion lying in a wooded park, complete with a pond, swimming pool and tennis court. The grounds have been bought for more than \$10 million by a Washington developer, who plans to build one hundred luxury houses on the land—each of which is likely to sell for more than \$250,000.

The mansion will not be pulled down and it is now up for sale, along with just one acre of land and without the pond and tennis court and pond, for just \$750,000.

The Women's Committee for the National Symphony Orchestra temporarily took over the house and gave 30 interior decorators the chance to do the place up. The result is a fabulous mélange of designs and at the weekend people were standing in long lines to pay \$5 per head to have a look around it. It was a brilliant idea and the National Symphony ought to make a lot of money.

But will the symphony be able to use it? Nobody knows, because the musicians have been on strike for the last three weeks.

I hear that Jimmy Saville will be at the Stock Exchange today recording a Jim'll Fix It programme for the BBC. The event prompted a certain amount of levity on the floor of the exchange yesterday. One joker broker, no doubt concerned at the bad patch the market is going through at the moment, was heard to say that someone had asked to be sent to a shark infested swamp.

David Felton

TELEX SUBSCRIBERS TX 78/79 OFFER					
Directories Public Ltd 25 Harley Street London W1N 2ER					
Subscriber	Code	Year			
UNITED KINGDOM	INTERNAT	1978/79			
Subscription	Price	Amount	VAT	Amount	
917685	JAN 79	127.00	0.00	TOTAL	£127.00

NOTE ON PAYMENT AND OVERLEAF

Part of Directories Public telex "account".

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

October 1978

Coral Leisure Group Limited

£30,000,000

Unsecured 4 and 7 year Loan Facilities

Managed by
BARCLAYS MERCHANT BANK LIMITED

Provided by
Barclays Bank Group

American Express International
Banking Corporation

Citibank N.A.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited

National Westminster Bank Limited

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Hesitant market is back below 500

Any lingering hopes that the City's stock market would bounce back into the stratosphere, as either buyers or sellers, were knocked out on the day yesterday when turnover languished at some 4,336 shares.

Awaiting a lead from the gilt market, which in turn is held back by a combination of factors, investors are content to stick to the sidelines until the market makes a definite move one way or the other.

Mr. Shank's rested at 47p, the shares would probably have moved in better markets. The company's management has taken a stake in the company, which is a definite move in the market.

Although concern over the oil market has been a factor, the market has been steady. The market has been steady, and the market has been steady.

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Final shot from Baird in battle for Dawson

Richard Allen, William Baird last night, entered the bidding and was the final shot in the battle for control of Dawson International.

In a letter to Dawson shareholders, Baird's chairman, Mr. Stanley Field, said that his group had no intention of increasing its terms. Last night, Dawson shares closed at 20p, slightly under the value of Baird's cash offer.

Urging shareholders to accept the offer which closes this Friday, Mr. Field discounts suggestions of a third party entering the bidding and warns that investors could be exposed to "financial risks" by failing to accept.

He points out that the Baird bid offers shareholders a chance to move into a broader-based group or reallocate their investment at the high-point of Dawson's profits cycle.

Yesterday, Mr. Field said that he was consulting his legal advisers over what response he should make with regard to certain remarks made in the rejection of the offer issued by the Dawson board.

He refused to say whether or not Baird would sell its near 30 per cent stake in Dawson should the bid fail.

Turquand statement likely on Sime Darby decision

The absence from the report of accounts of Sime Darby Holdings of any further explanation by the directors of their decision to replace Turquand & Co. as the present auditors, with Price, Waterhouse & Co., is likely to prompt Turquand to issue a statement to shareholders later this week.

The statement may reveal what Turquand considers to be the reasons for the decision. Sime's reasons, repeated but not amplified in the report and accounts, is that Turquand's is not big enough to handle Sime's growing and diversified interests.

At the annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur on November 7, shareholders will be asked to vote on two resolutions: one to appoint Turquand & Co. as auditors, and another to appoint Price, Waterhouse & Co. as auditors.

In the chairman's statement attached to the report and accounts, Tan Siew Sin said that Sime Darby had made substantial progress towards winning the bid for the Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. The move should be completed next year.

Wider product range boosts Fidelity

A wider range of products, particularly in the centre field has helped Fidelity Radio to increase its sales for the half year to September 30 by 24 per cent to £8.8m. Group pre-tax profits were pushed up by 28 per cent to £650,000. Much of the improvement has come from the consumer boom, but the group has also increased its market share. The interim dividend is raised from 1.5p to 2.14p.

The board says that the present level of consumer spending suggests that sales will continue to rise, and that indications over the results for the full year will be an improvement on last year's £1.3m. The shares rose 5p to 92p.

The second-half is traditionally the most profitable as Christmas gives a boost to sales. Some observers expect the group to reach around £1.7m or the full year, although the record for the group is a profit of £2.2m in 1974.

Japan only surplus trader in July—IMF

The International Monetary Fund said in Washington yesterday that all major industrial countries except Japan showed a decline in the United States dollar value of exports and imports in July.

The International Financial Statistics the IMF said the fall was the largest since February. Japanese exports rose slightly from June to July to \$3,600m, while imports rose by \$457m to \$6,500m.

Japan's trade surplus, in-

The biggest jump of the day was in Fortnum & Mason, which in a very tight market, jumped a pound to 885p. The death of chairman and major shareholder, Mr. Garfield Weston, was a factor.

KCA International at 36p is starting to appeal to the tough-minded who do not mind a group which in its time has lost its official broker (W. Green, Smith, & Co.) and its home (Samuel Montagu), besides having its accounts audited. The theory is that profits this year could jump from £1.9m to £3m, and some say £3.7m. Book net assets are 39p a share and some think that Mr. Weston's death will be a catalyst for the group to become more important in the group than now.

ton, triggered speculation that the remaining 1 per cent of the equity in the market might be bought in at around £10 and any available stock was snapped up by traders.

Of the other groups reporting figures, Pressac at 108p and

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div.	Pay	Year's
1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977
Alphagate Trust (I)	1.07	0.57	3.5(2.0)	2.2(2.0)	9/12	—
Alphagate Trust (II)	0.36	0.36	2.5(2.35)	2.5(2.35)	30/11	—
Fairview Estates (F)	22.7(18.6)	2.7(1.9)	3.8(3.3)	3.8(3.3)	—	6.3(5.6)
Fidelity Radio (I)	8.84(7.13)	0.53(0.49)	—	1.4(1.29)	12/1	—
Fidelity Radio (II)	6.1(5.5)	0.32(0.11)	—	—	—	—
Helical Bar (F)	4.0(3.3)	—	15.7(11.9)	2.2(2.08)	—	3.2(2.8)
Lowland Invest (F)	0.47(0.38)	2.65(2.3)	1.6(1.3)	1.6(1.3)	18/12	2.5(2.1)
Mothcare (I)	7.0(6.4)	—	1.136(1.01)	2.1(1.9)	2/1/79	—
Myddelton Hotels (F)	0.57(0.43)	24.1(23.8)	4.0(3.0)	4.0(3.0)	—	—
Pochin (I)	12.9(10.9)	0.70(0.55)	2.5(2.1)	2.5(2.1)	8/12	5.1(4.1)
Pochin (II)	7.3(5.1)	1.0(0.68)	14.5(7.47)	2.0(1.84)	8/12	2.76(2.68)
Talbot (F)	11.1(8.5)	0.57(0.42)	2.7(2.5)	0.55(0.27)	—	0.55(0.27)

Pressac jumps 53pc as demand improves

By Peter Wainwright

A consumer boom does wonders for Pressac, the Nottingham-based company making and assembling components for the television, refrigerator and washing machine industries. In the year to July 31 sales rose by just over 23 per cent to £7.8m and pre-tax profits by as much as 53 per cent to £1.01m, easily beating the old £718,000 peak of 1972-73.

Tax actually provided by the group rose hardly at all to £416,979, so attributable profits soared by 128 per cent to £591,038.

Pressac makes no secret of its dependence on consumer goods. Indeed it is bent on moving more deeply into them through greater involvement in white goods such as refrigerators and video tape recorders.

However the boom continues, and Pressac, after pointing out that second-half profits were better than the first, adds that sales in the new financial year are at a record high.

Order books are only two to three months long, but if the boom persists, as some argue, Pressac is on the way to another record.

Estate Dancies Investment Trust at the last count had 25 per cent of the shares and it may be higher now; the American leader in Pressac's industry, Moler, used to have 53.3 per cent but it understood to have sold it. The Wagstaff family and trusts have at least 10 per cent.

The gross dividend rises from 4.07p a share to 4.5p with a final of 3.1p. There was a preference scrip issue earlier this year.

Talbex turns in profits showing 35pc increase

By Our Financial Staff

Talbex Group, which has been considering an offer for Hoskins & Horton, the builder and engineering group, during the past few weeks, showed a 35 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £573,600 in the year ending July 31.

The soap-to-hairdressing-to-rubber mouldings group pushed up turnover by 30 per cent to £11.1m, while earnings a share crept up from 2.5p to 2.7p.

The results did not include A. P. Skeftron, the air conditioning and heating offshoot of Artoc, which it acquired last July for £27,000. If Skeftron's results were included with the group, pre-tax profit would have risen to £823,000 and turnover to £13.7m. These results would have been after the notional charge on the £500,000 cash element of the acquisition.

And the group stressed that Skeftron's profit, as predicted in July, is on target for the £500,000 warranted by the venture capitalists.

A dividend of 0.81p gross has been proposed, compared with 0.4p last year, in line with the board's prediction at the time of the Skeftron purchase.

In the contracting packaging division, profits increased by 74 per cent to £403,000 and net assets a share have increased from 7.5p to 12.7p, including Skeftron. Although the group did not expect any material benefit from its acquisition of James Warren, which took place at the beginning of the year.

Dunbee-Combox-Marx shock losses

Institutions seek root cause

Shock losses of £3m from Dunbee-Combox-Marx have left the world's toy manufacturers but, although its institutional shareholders are understandably furious at such an unexpected fall from grace, there is no certainty that the Stock Exchange intends to turn the current share price into a full-scale enquiry into dealing ahead of the results.

Although the share price had dropped 20 per cent between the publication of a bullish annual report in July and the announcement of the unprecedented first-half deficit, the group itself is satisfied that sensitive information had not been leaked. While certain members of the DCM board are known to be unhappy with the timing of an institutional visit just two weeks ago, the official view is that nervousness had been mostly created by the publication of a bearish broker's circular in September. It may well be that people and events will eventually prompt a full examination of those dealings but, at this stage, it appears that the institutions are far more concerned to get to the root of DCM's precipitous shortfall and, ipso facto, to gain assurances that adequate financial controls will be introduced.

Shareholders will be given a chance to air these grievances at a meeting in DCM's headquarters in Great Portland Street on Friday and are likely to be told that, even with the supposed benefit of five months' management information, the board had simply not realised the extent of the group's US problems. When chairman Lord Westwood spoke last July of a "significant rise in orders" and a "return in a year more in keeping with our past profits performance", he simply did not know that the abrupt merger of Aurora and Louis Marx, the decline in the US economy and the failure to maintain and develop the established products was causing such extreme damage.

That may be a charitable view—if the exposure of such scant financial controls can ever be viewed with charity—and it seems certain that a number of scale bulls will be shaken out this week to impose further pressure on the share price—down 2p yesterday to 88p.

But others may be tempted to hang on provided they are given assurances that the old entrepreneurial days of long, and sometimes seemingly blocked, communications are over. DCM made its name and its current ranking in the forefront of the world toy market by a succession of opportunistic and decisive acquisitions of allied competitors. Best known of these was the purchase of Rovex from the Lines Brothers receivers early in 1972 and this brought the brand names—Pedigree, Hornby and Scalextric—which have done so much to secure DCM's past growth.

Louis Marx came in four years later to add a significant presence in the important American market. While this policy has been criticised in that it appeared to be based more in financial rather than marketing grounds, the acquisition of Aurora for £6m from Nabisco earlier this year looked the right opportunity to buy useful manufacturing capacity in Singapore and a major brand in the growing model car racing market.

But DSM was putting too much emphasis on its new products and was allowing its longer-established ranges to decline. The New York toy fair appeared to be going well but the board appeared not to notice that the recession was hurting profitability. Production was piling up and the imposition of Marx's sites at Glen Dale in West Virginia and at Girard near Lake Erie caused not only management antagonism but also enormous disruption.

Marx is expected to have a very bad year and, with continuing losses in Germany, a group that should be capable of £10m pre-tax annually, will be struggling to make £4m. That, in itself, will require a substantial recovery in the dominant second half and it is by no means certain that DCM will have bridged its credibility gap. After all profits have been uninspiring for almost two years and if that owes much to uniformly flat UK conditions, DCM's image has been severely dented.

The upturn could be swift given the strength of the Rovex brand names and the buoyancy of the DIY arm but the institutions will be distinctly chary of the shares unless and until strict financial controls have been introduced, and are seen to be working.

DCM has undoubtedly done the correct thing by anticipating shareholders' requests for a class of the air meeting. But if the share price is ever to recover, the board must make its absolutely clear that Marx and Aurora are not going to create recurring problems.

Ray Maughan

Improved margins help in Pochin's 25 pc rise

By Rosemary Unsworth

Pochin's, the Cheshire-based building and civil engineering group, has succeeded in posting up pre-tax profits by 25 per cent in a year when margins in the construction industry were under pressure.

The group made £703,000 pre-tax while turnover increased from £10.9m to £12.9m in the year ending May 31. Margins increased slightly from 5.1 per cent to 5.4 per cent but more than 5 per cent of the profits increase was accounted for by the completion of a large-scale office development in Wrexham which was predicted by the chairman, Mr. Cedric Pochin, last year.

Although the company's order books are fuller than usual at this time of the year and development projects are about to start, Mr. Pochin said it would be "optimistic to expect profitability to be maintained at the present level" during the current year. But he said the group should produce a comparable result with previous years.

A final dividend of 6.36p gross has been proposed, making a total of 7.67p; the maximum 10 per cent increase allowed under present legislation. Mr. Pochin said that the new dividend cover formula does not affect the company as its year-end fell before July 31—the operative date under the new guidelines.

The group, which is involved mainly in industrial development for local authorities and has a small housebuilding division, is looking round for additional speculative projects, like the Wrexham development, because trading margins for tendered work are contracting every year.

RTZ plans to acquire Duisburger Copper

Rio Tinto Zinc Corp Ltd is planning to buy the loss-making German copper concern Duisburger Kupferhuetten—according to an RTZ spokesman.

A spokesman for Duisburger confirmed it is being sold to an international mining group, but declined to name the purchaser.

Duisburger lost DM25m last year. The workforce has been cut from 4,200 to 1,850 in the past eight years.

RTZ plans to acquire Duisburger Copper

Highland Distilleries steps up share of UK whisky market

By Christopher Wilkins

Highland Distilleries is still increasing its share of the United Kingdom whisky market. In the year ending last July home industry whisky sales increased in volume by 5.3 per cent, but Highland's own volume grew by no less than 41 per cent in the year in the end of August.

The result was that sales rose to £42,600,000, while profits were up from £3,350,000 to £4,080,000. In earnings terms the increase was even greater. In line with a new accounting standard, Highland now takes no provision for tax relief on stock appreciation and as a result it faces a tax charge of only £59,000. The effect is an increase of 31 per cent in earnings per share to 15.7p. At 147p the shares are thus selling at nearly 13 times earnings.

Highland's growth has once again derived from the strength of the Famous Grouse brand. Already spring in Scotland, Highland's philosophy has been to expand the brand's presence into England. Promotional spending has risen by 20 per cent, but volume growth has meant that losses in England have been cut back. The group hopes to break even in England this year, and the benefits of improved volume seem likely to mean a significant breakthrough into profit thereafter.

From a relatively small base Highland has also been expanding its export sales. These grew from £1.15m to £1.63m. Highland has linked up with Seagram to develop sales of Famous Grouse in the United States, where market prospects are at present being assessed.

The impact of rapid expansion is apparent in the balance sheet. Stocks grew by £4m from £17.2m, while borrowings were up by £2m to £6.4m. Borrowings are expected to continue to rise but are still relatively modest in relation to year-end shareholders' funds of £20.2m. The higher borrowings were apparent in a rise in interest payments from £476,000 to £522,000.

To accommodate rising sales Highland is planning a significant expansion of its Glenrothes Distillery, here additional capacity is due to come on stream in 1980. The cost of expansion will be about £1.25m, and production will increase from 1,700,000 to 2,300,000 proof gallons a year.

One setback for Highland came in the decline in investment income from £461,000 to £430,000. The contribution from Robertson & Baxter, in which Highland holds 35 per cent, was up from £21,000 to £349,000, but the collapse of animal feedstuff prices meant a drop in the contribution from this source from £140,000 to £81,000.

The dividend has been increased by the maximum possible to 4.8p gross, where the yield on the shares is 3.1 per cent. To correct the balance between issued share capital and reserves Highland is proposing a one-for-one scrip issue, its second in two years.

Smooth transition for Fairview into industrial property field

Fairview Estates appears to be making a smooth transition from its original role as a private householder to that of industrial property investment and development. At 47 per cent pre-tax profit improvement to £3.13m in the year ended June 30 last includes an unquantified contribution from residential building but the board, headed by Mr. Dennis Cope, intends to build out the present land holding to enlarge the investment portfolio.

A revaluation of the completed investment properties at the balance sheet date shows an uplift in asset backing from 85p to 162p per share to which the share price responded with a 4p rise to 137p. Fully developed estates, although said to be substantially rent producing, have not been realised as yet but Fairview promises that "will reveal a considerable surplus over current book value adding significantly to the underlying asset backing of the group."

Freehold and leasehold property investments were valued at £24.6m in the balance sheet against £16.7m while land and buildings in the course of development are shown at £18.71m in addition, a "considerable number" of reversions fall in this year on the existing investment portfolio and Fairview is thus looking for a further "substantial increase" in rental income.

A gross final dividend of 5.68p lifts the total by a tenth to 9.413p per share.

Options

Falling to weather the downturn of interest in the equity market, business on the traded options pitch languished at recent low levels and turnover yesterday amounted to only 429.

Not even the expiry of the October options tomorrow could generate much interest and several stocks saw the number of contracts traded in single figures. GEC was the most active stock with 142 contracts while, at the other end, BOC was untested.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
(Incorporated in Hong Kong with Limited Liability)

SUMMARISED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET at 30th June 1978

31 Dec. 1977	£000's	30 June 1978	£000's
£119,439		£133,626	
147,735		155,751	
15,688		41,327	
£282,862		£330,704	
34,579		40,676	
541,313		596,355	
6,801,046		7,714,916	
22,454		10,690	
90,044		24,590	
1,383,488		1,496,273	
£9,155,786		£10,214,204	
£1,833,969		£2,035,685	
967,194		1,014,404	
535,319		695,065	
534,585		589,413	
274,880		323,776	
3,346,027		3,776,041	
£7,491,974		£8,434,334	
280,324		283,547	
1,383,488		1,496,273	
£9,155,786		£10,214,204	
LIABILITIES		LIABILITIES	
Issued capital		Issued capital	
Reserves		Reserves	
Retained profits		Retained profits	
Minority interests in subsidiaries		Minority interests in subsidiaries	
Currency notes in circulation		Currency notes in circulation	
Current, deposit and other accounts		Current, deposit and other accounts	
Proposed dividend		Proposed dividend	
Items in transit between offices		Items in transit between offices	
Engagements on behalf of customers		Engagements on behalf of customers	
ASSETS		ASSETS	
Current assets		Current assets	
Cash and short-term funds		Cash and short-term funds	
Time deposits with banks payable within twelve months		Time deposits with banks payable within twelve months	
Trade bills and certificates of deposit		Trade bills and certificates of deposit	
Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness		Hong Kong Government certificates of indebtedness	
Investments		Investments	
Advances to customers and other accounts		Advances to customers and other accounts	
Fixed assets		Fixed assets	
Liabilities of customers for engagements		Liabilities of customers for engagements	

Linford Holdings Limited

Successful adjustment in a difficult year

- £5.1 million profit, slightly down on last year's figures.
- Sales up by 11.4%.
- The net dividend has been increased from 8-495 to 9-3868 pence per share.
- The three main divisions of the company—Retail, Wholesale, and Cash & Carry—have increased their volume.
- Spar has maintained its market share despite intense price war pressures.
- Capital and reserves have increased and now exceed £23 million.
- We can look forward with confidence to the consolidation of our newly enlarged resources.

Results for the year ended 29th April 1978

	1978	1977
	£000s	£000s
Sales	327,405	293,898
Profit before taxation	5,155	5,812
Earnings per ordinary share	24-8p	23-0p
Dividends per ordinary share		
—net	9-3868p	8-495p
—gross	14-08p	12-43p

*The 1977 figures have been adjusted for the changes in share capital.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from: The Secretary, Linford Holdings Limited, PO Box 11, Welwyn Garden City, Herts SG8 1LE.

John Foord

plant and machine fabrics

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS									
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Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

PERSONAL CHOICE

TELEVISION

RADIO

Ronald Pickup and Sheila Gish who appear in the Anglia TV play *Memories* (TV, 10.30).

● *Tenants Play for Today*, like last week's, is about a political transplant that does not take. Nina was about Soviet exiles in London. Victims of Apartheid (BBC 1, 9.25) is about black South Africans in London and about one in particular (John Kani) whose nightmare experience at the hands of the white police has shaped him into the kind of anti-apartheid fighter whose mission is an embarrasment to those of his fellow blacks and whites who have settled for the softer option of liberalism. Tom Clarke's play is a comedy but, given its serious theme, an uneasy one. It dissipates too much of its energy tearing up blind alleys when there is so much left to explore along the main road—the theme of the freedom fighter cut off from the battlefield. Its characters tend to become ciphers, but the acting is uniformly good and, in the case of Mr Kani, outstanding.

● We have almost reached the half-way stage in *Roads to Conflict* (BBC 1, 11.25), the 10-part series about the origins of the Middle East, and the promise of the first couple of episodes is being fulfilled. It has retained the small effort, I should imagine, to keep to a strictly neutral line in its explanation of Jewish aspirations and Arab hostility. Tonight we see the beginning of the British mandate in Palestine in 1920.

● If last Saturday night's joint TV and radio transmission of the Makropoulos Case has given you a taste for Janacek, you will probably want to develop it further and you can do so tonight because his *Jenufa* is being broadcast by the Scottish Opera (Radio 3, 7.30). Wendy Eise sings the title role and Sir Alexander Gibson will be in the pit at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Mention of Scotland reminds me that Mark Rocco's part-witch and part-fairy tale Scottish Fantasy can be heard this morning by early risers (Radio 3, 8.15). Kyung-Wah Chung is the soloist, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

● Five minutes after he begins reading from Wordsworth's autobiographical poem *The Prelude* (Radio 3, 10.25), that good actor Ronald Pickup can be seen playing five roles in Anglia's television play by William Trevor, *Memories* (ITV, 10.30). He is far less well served by Mr Trevor than he is by Mr Wordsworth, though I must say he is lucky in that he has a virtual monopoly of the few good lines spoken in this very odd tale about an English family's horrible experiences in Ireland.

● THAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * STEREO * BLACK AND WHITE; * REPEAT.

BBC 1

9.38 am, For Schools, Colleges (until 12.30). 9.58, Out of the Box (Chas. Dickens, 1). 10.05, Look and Read 10.30. Let's Go (for mentally handicapped). 11.00, Watch 11.17. Going to Work 11.38, Taking Shape. 12.05, A Job Worth Doing (laboratory work). 12.45 pm, News and weather. 1.00, Pebble Mill: including an interview with Ivor Spencer, Britain's No 1 toastmaster and now after-dinner speaker. 1.45, How Do You Do?: rhymes and counting games for toddlers. 2.00, You and Me: stories for the very young. 2.14, For Schools, Colleges (until 3.00). 2.14, Treffpunkt Deutschland. 2.30, English (part 1 of The Government Inspector). 3.20, Pebol y Cwm: serial from Wales. 3.55, Play School: the story Anna's Mother has a Birthday. 4.20, Felix the Cat: cartoon.

BBC 2

10.30 am, Working for Safety: staying uninjured and healthy at work (r). 11.00, Play School: same as BBC 1, 3.55. 2.30, Tecair Ltd.: industrial organization for students. Today: a big export order (r). 3.00, Film as Evidence: post-war attitudes as reflected in the newscasts. 3.30, The Living City: sociological series about life in Leicester today. 5.15, Open University: postgraduate research in the OU (until 5.40). 6.55, News, with subtitles for the hard of hearing. 7.00, Digame: Spanish for beginners (r). 7.25, News and weather. 7.30, One Man and His Dog: second final of the sheepdog trials championship. Tonight: a first-round clash. Eddie Waring is the commentator. 11.15, The Old Grey Whistle Test: rock music are Whitesnake and The Average White Band. Also, interviews and film snippets. 12.05 am, Closedown: Martin Jarvis reads Peter Foley's poem *Divorce Court*.

THAMES

9.30 am, For Schools (until 12.00). 9.30, Seeing and Doing (magic). 9.47, Reading with Lenny. 10.00, Believe it or Not. 10.18, Mr. More Life (cosycomedy). 10.40, Facts of Life. 11.05, Leapfrog. 11.22, Look Around. 11.39, The Land (Cairngorms). 12.00, Chorton and the Wheelies: Brian Travenant's story The Keep-Fit Class. 12.10 pm, Stepping Stones: the theme of today's stories is bread. 12.30, No Man's Land: films about women's role in society. 1.00, News, with Jon Leader. 1.20, Thames News: local round-up. 1.30, Crown Court: a new case begins. Death in the lake. Was it murder, or accident? 2.00, After Noon: Peter Lewis, author of the cinema book *The Fifties*, is interviewed by Elaine Grand.

4.25, Jackanory: Maurice Denham reads *Brigid Chard's* *First Summer*. 4.40, The Space Sentinels: science fiction story, told in animated pictures. 5.00, John Craven's Newsround: junior newscast. 5.10, The Record Breakers: Norris McWhirter tests his memory for the fastest, smartest, etc., and Roy Castle talks about the world's longest canoe. 5.40, News, with Angela Rippon. 5.55, Nationwide: the popular magazine programme. 6.50, David Essex: tonight's musical show was filmed partly in Wales. Guest is the American singer Ronnie Spector. 7.20, James Burke's Connections: documentaries that link past and present. One of tonight's links is that between dawn on Ben Nevis and the invention of a 20th century terror weapon. 8.10, Dallas: romantic dramas about a rich and divided Texas family. 9.00, News, with Angela Rippon. 9.25, Victims of Apartheid: Tom Clarke's amusing but worrying play about black South Africans living in exile in London, showing how easy it is to lose the will to fight. It stars John Kani, acclaimed for his acting in *Silence of the Lambs*. 10.45, Tonight: Valerie Singleton and Denis Tuohy present tonight's edition. 11.25, Rosebud: conflict documentaries on the Middle East crisis. Tonight how the British mandate in Palestine came into effect. 11.50, Weather/Regional News.

BBC 1 variations: SCOTLAND: 9.38 am, Geography for schools. 6.50, Tom and Jerry. 6.55, Ballad Folk. 10.15, Tuesday Night. 10.40, The Big Game. 11.00, The Big Game. 11.10, The Big Game. 11.20, The Big Game. 11.30, The Big Game. 11.40, The Big Game. 11.50, The Big Game. 12.00, The Big Game. 12.10, The Big Game. 12.20, The Big Game. 12.30, The Big Game. 12.40, The Big Game. 12.50, The Big Game. 1.00, The Big Game. 1.10, The Big Game. 1.20, The Big Game. 1.30, The Big Game. 1.40, The Big Game. 1.50, The Big Game. 2.00, The Big Game. 2.10, The Big Game. 2.20, The Big Game. 2.30, The Big Game. 2.40, The Big Game. 2.50, The Big Game. 3.00, The Big Game. 3.10, The Big Game. 3.20, The Big Game. 3.30, The Big Game. 3.40, The Big Game. 3.50, The Big Game. 4.00, The Big Game. 4.10, The Big Game. 4.20, The Big Game. 4.30, The Big Game. 4.40, The Big Game. 4.50, The Big Game. 5.00, The Big Game. 5.10, The Big Game. 5.20, The Big Game. 5.30, The Big Game. 5.40, The Big Game. 5.50, The Big Game. 6.00, 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